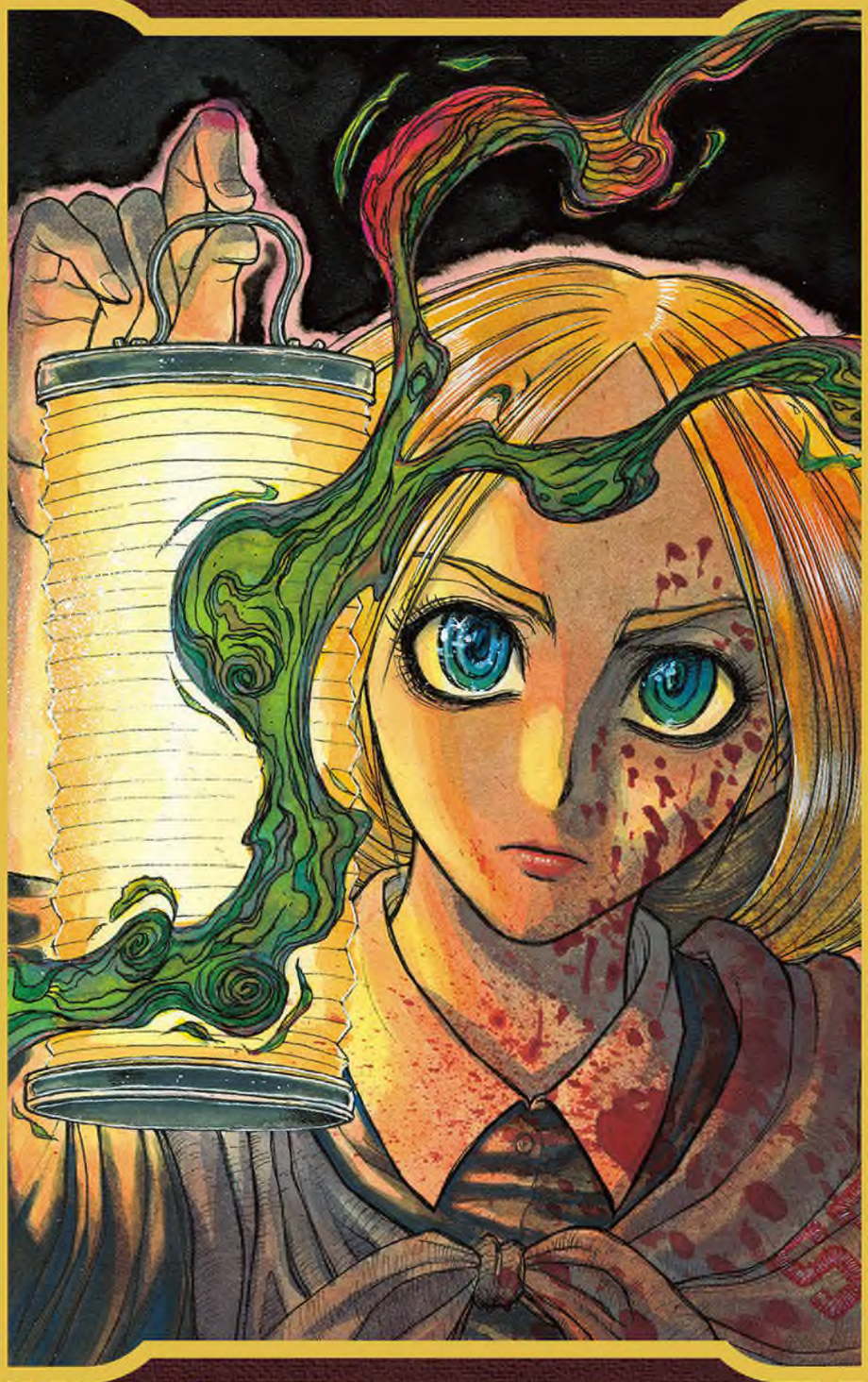
Kazuhiro Fujita

presents

The Black Museum



The Ghost and the Lady

BOOK TWO

The Black Museum

The Ghost and the Lady

2

Kazuhiro Fujita

The Black Museum

WILL ON THIS DAY PRESENT THE TRAGEDY CALLED

The Ghost and the Lady

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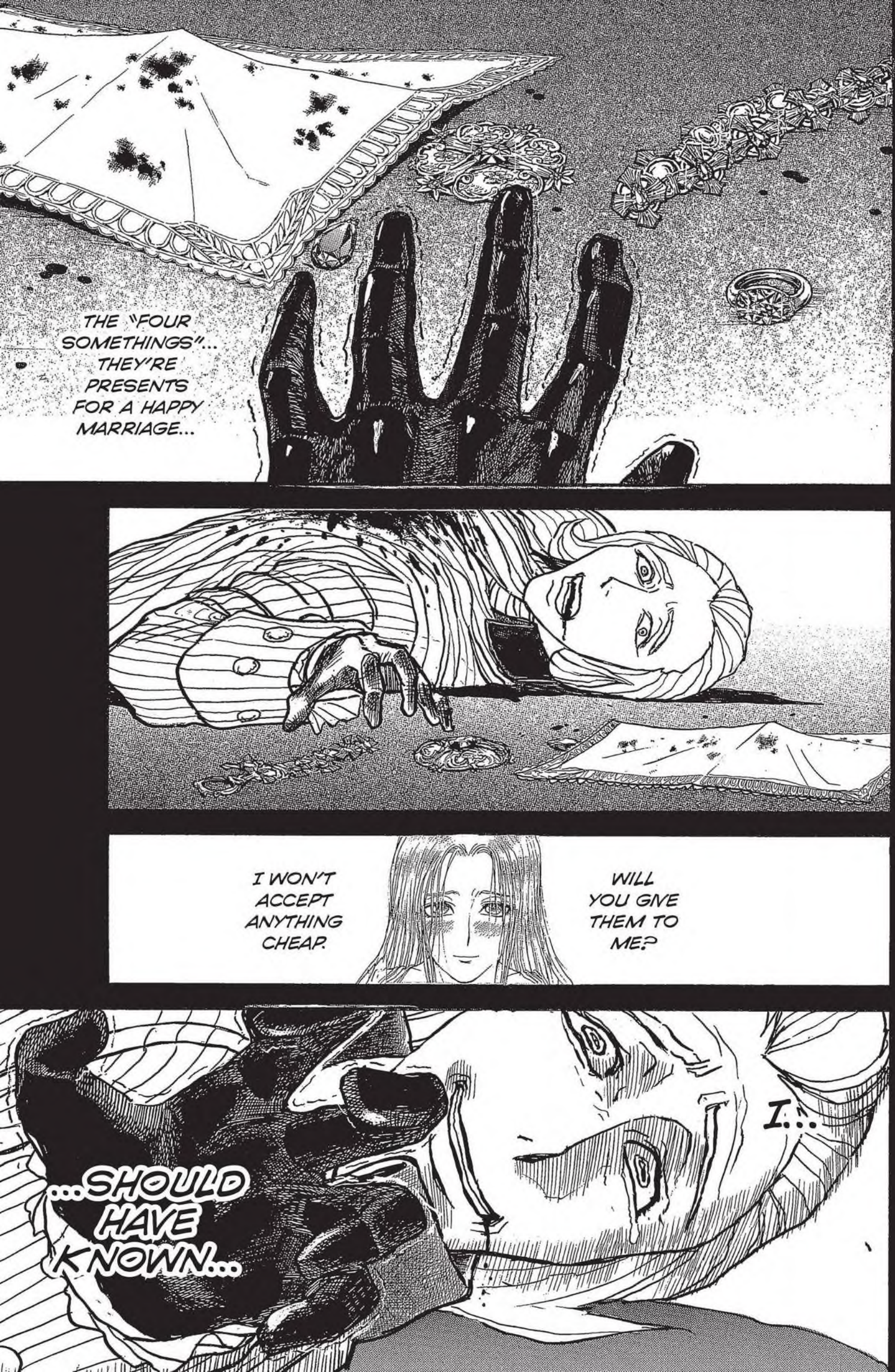
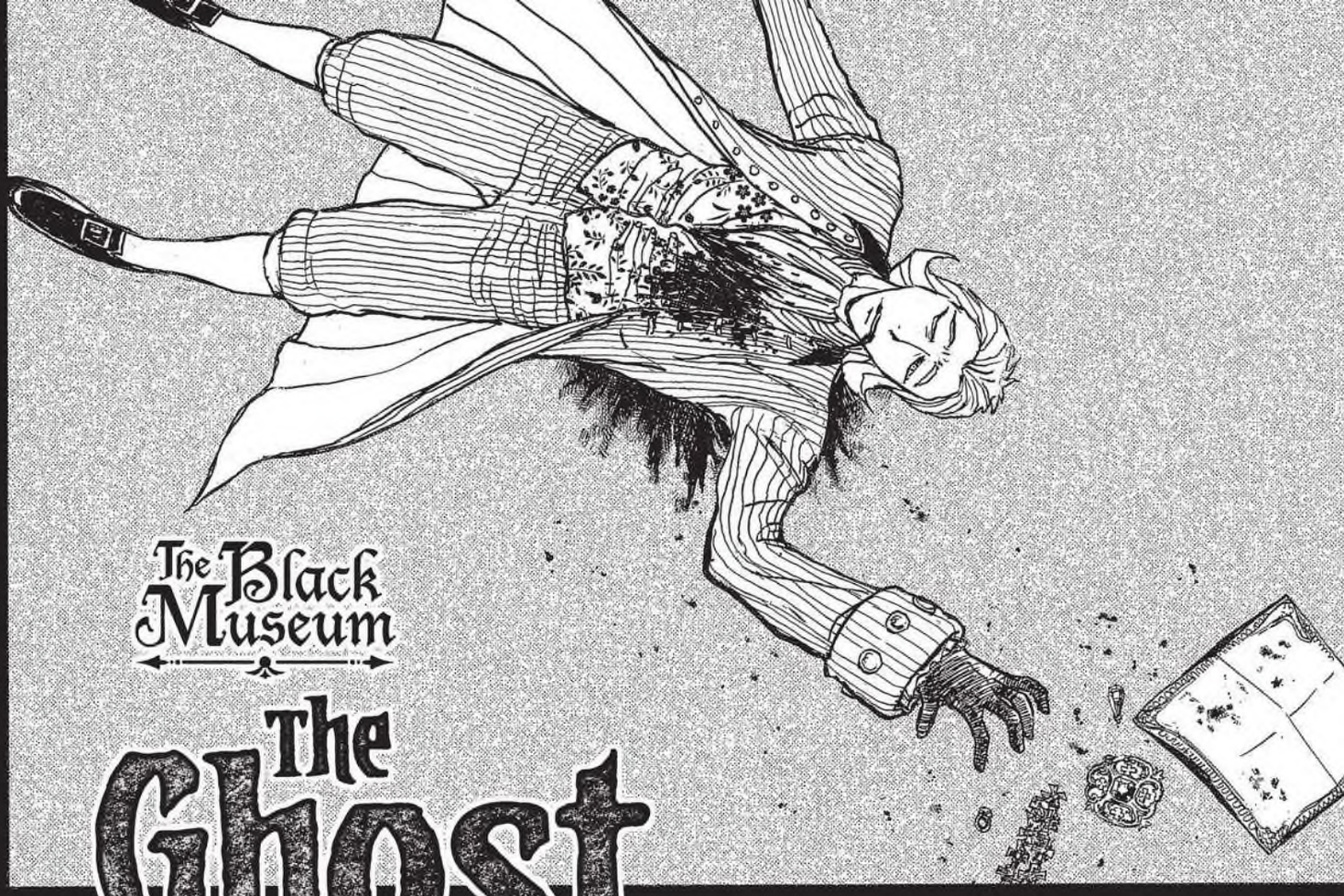
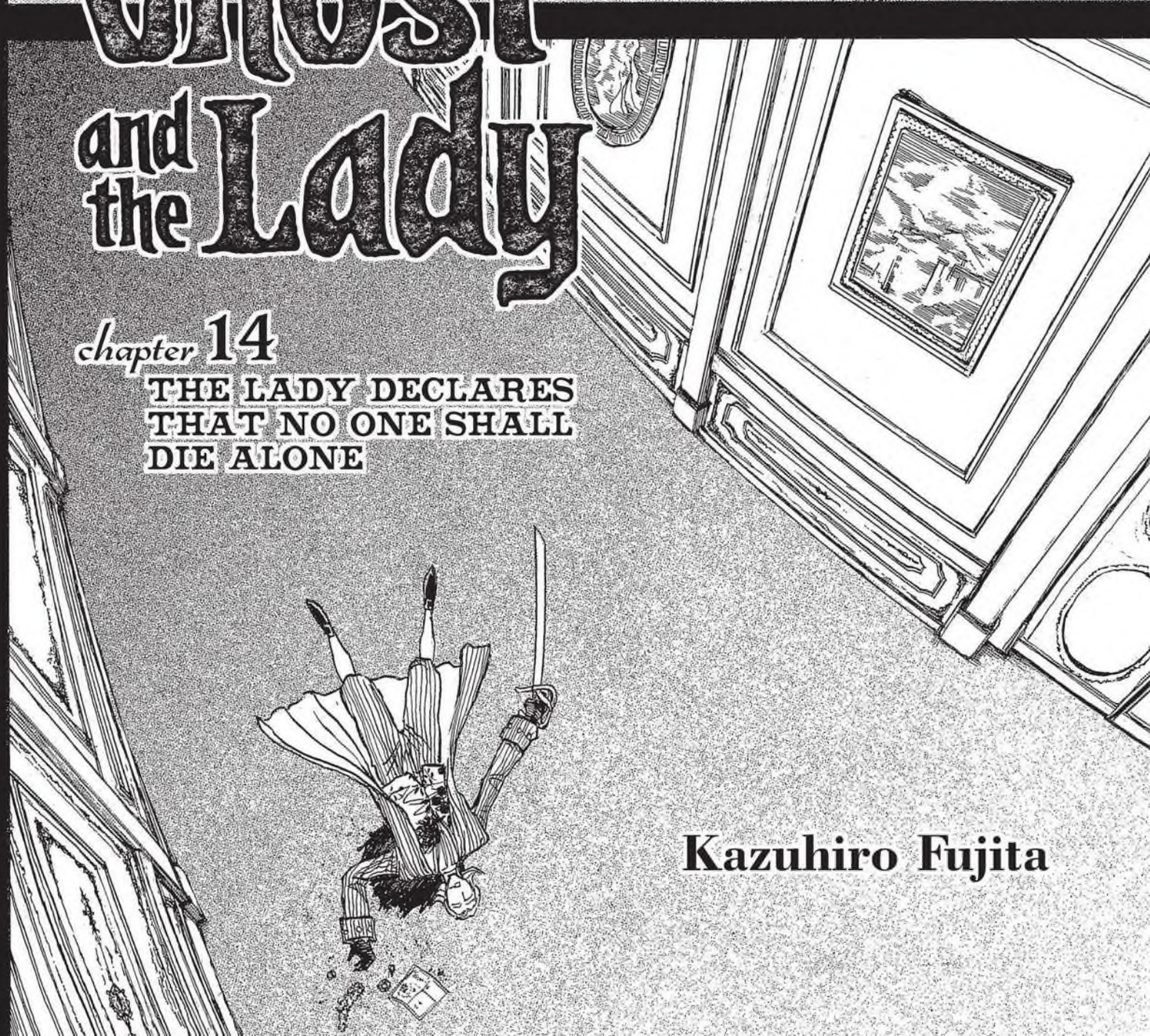

THE "FOUR SOMETHINGS"... THEY'RE PRESENTS FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE...
I WON'T ACCEPT ANYTHING CHEAP.
WILL YOU GIVE THEM TO ME?
I...
...SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...



The Black Museum

The Ghost and the Lady

chapter 14
THE LADY DECLARES THAT NO ONE SHALL DIE ALONE



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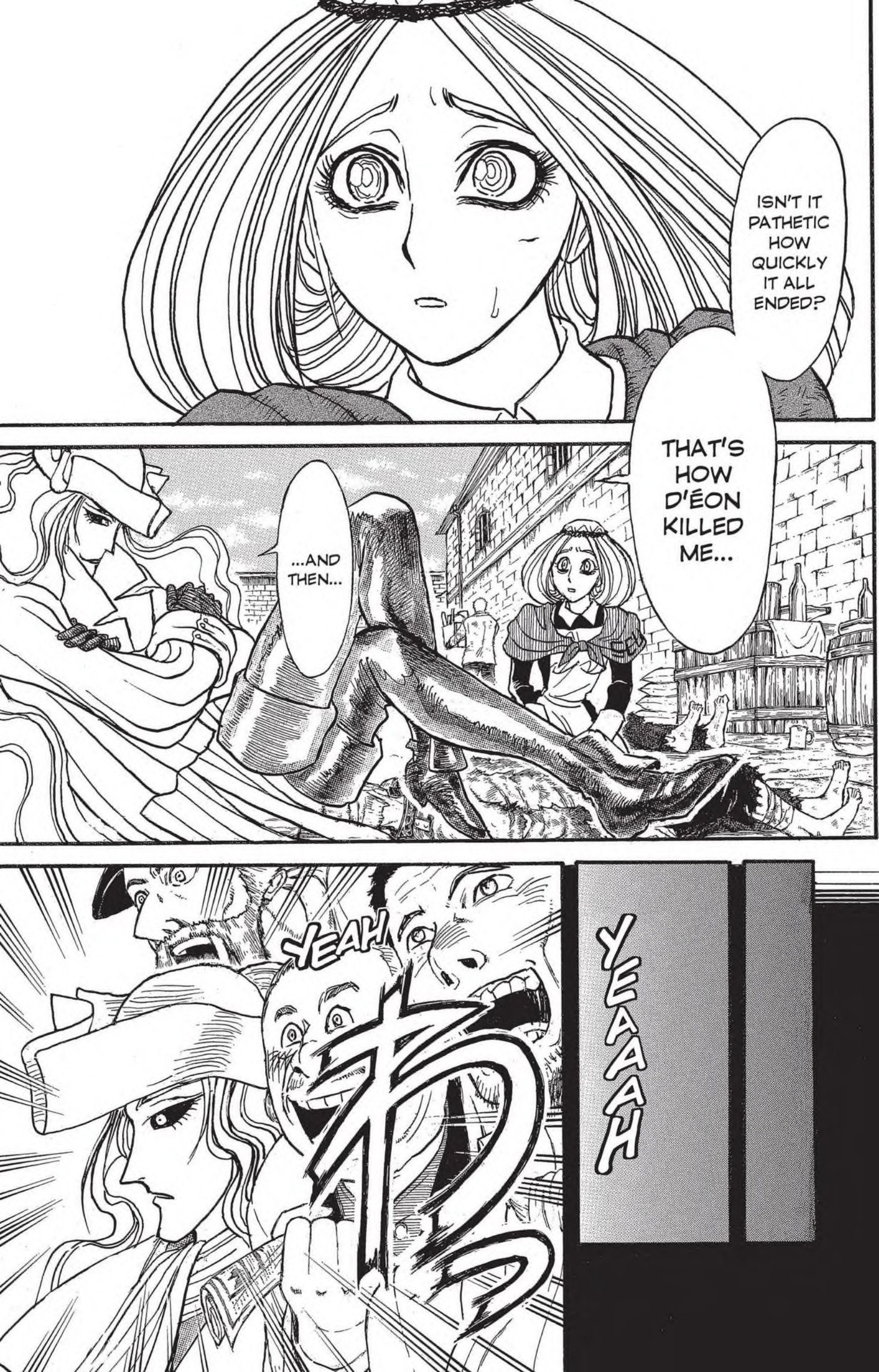
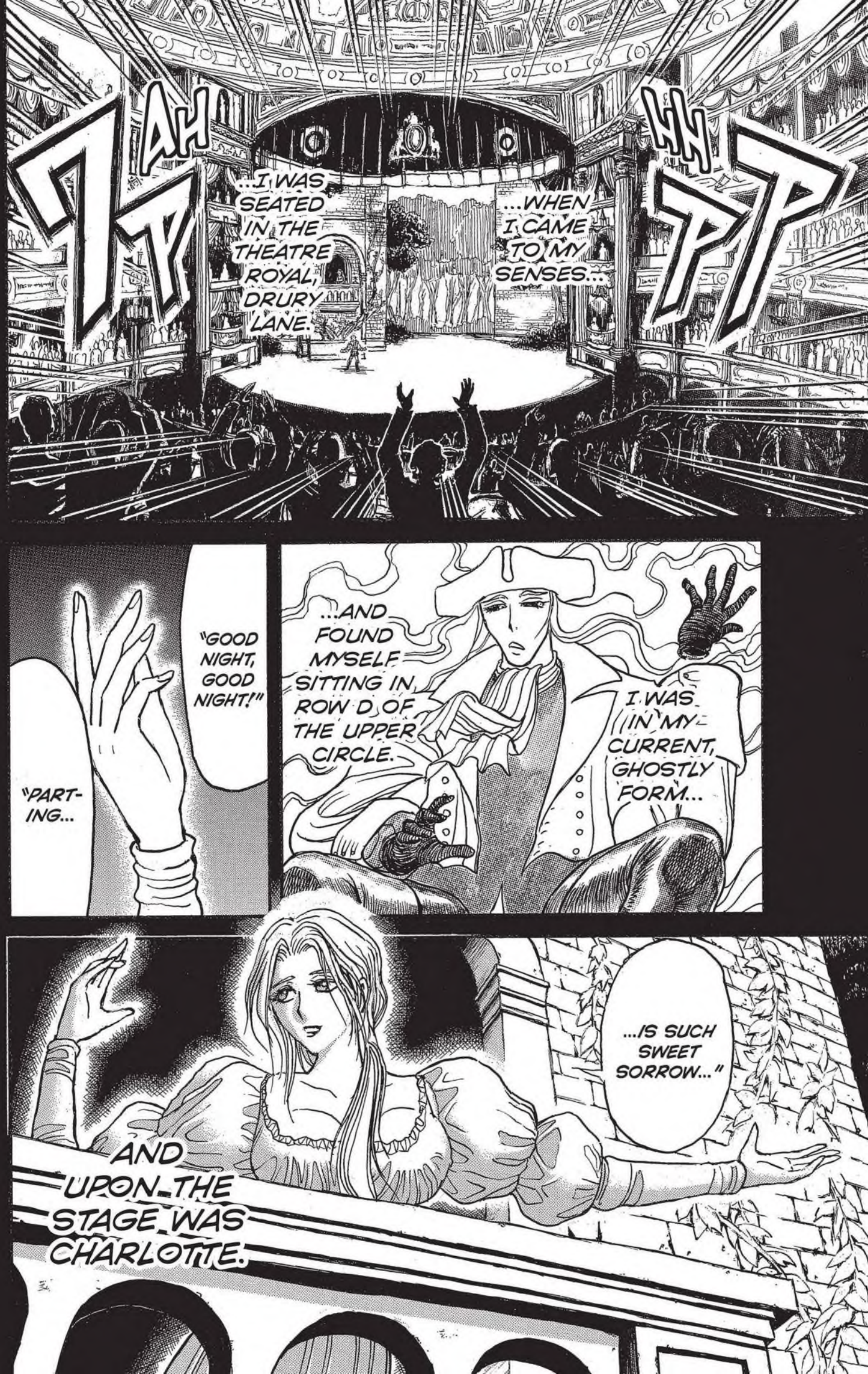
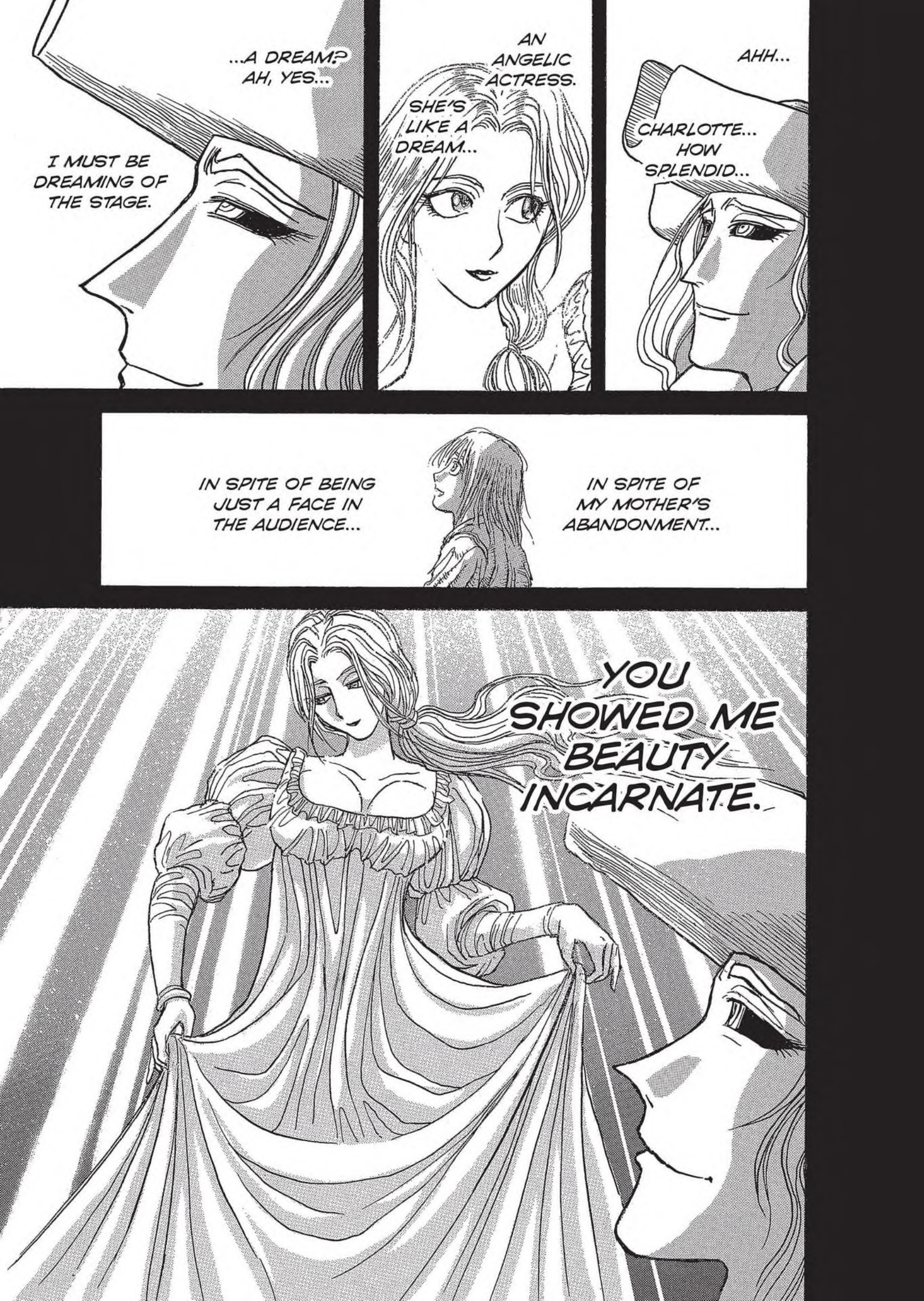
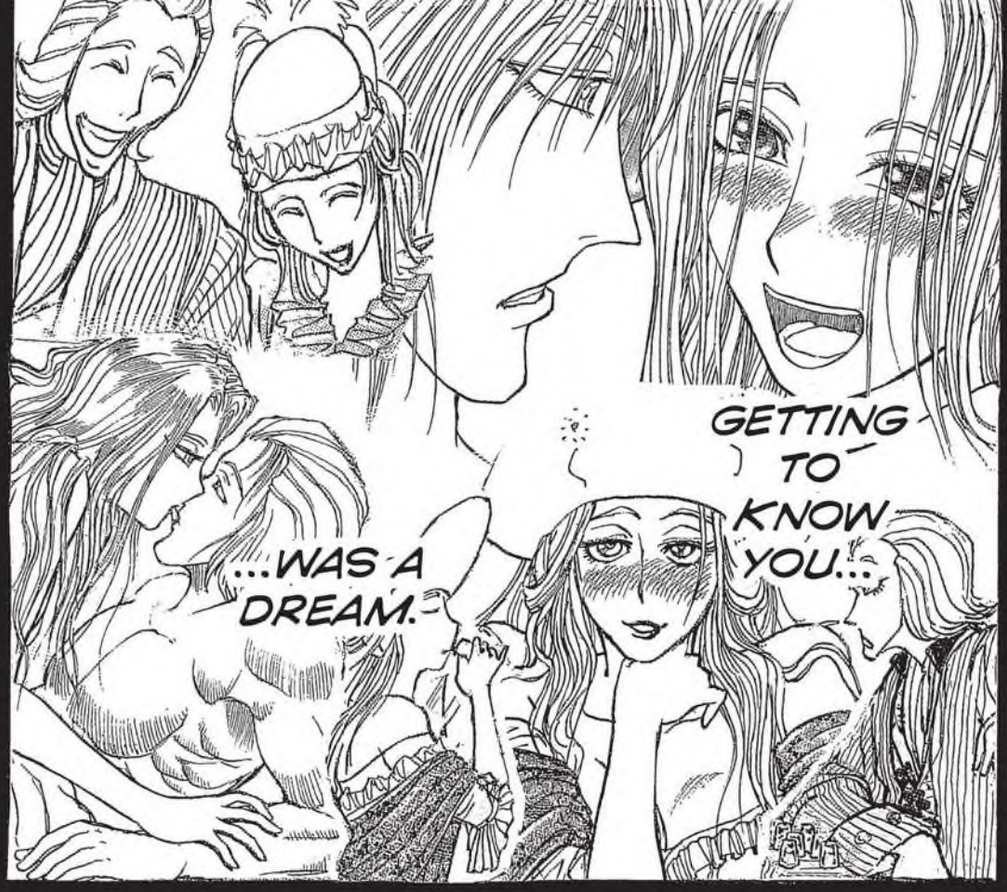

ISN'T IT PATHETIC HOW QUICKLY IT ALL ENDED?
THAT'S HOW D'ÉON KILLED ME...
...AND THEN...
YEAAAH
YEAH


AH
...I WAS SEATED IN THE THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.
...WHEN I CAME TO MY SENSES...
AH
"PART-ING...
"GOOD NIGHT, GOOD NIGHT!"
...AND FOUND MYSELF SITTING IN ROW D OF THE UPPER CIRCLE.
I WAS IN MY CURRENT, GHOSTLY FORM...
...IS SUCH SWEET SORROW..."
AND UPON THE STAGE WAS CHARLOTTE.


I MUST BE DREAMING OF THE STAGE.
...A DREAM? AH, YES...
SHE'S LIKE A DREAM...
AN ANGELIC ACTRESS.
AHH...
CHARLOTTE... HOW SPLENDID...
IN SPITE OF BEING JUST A FACE IN THE AUDIENCE...
IN SPITE OF MY MOTHER'S ABANDONMENT...
YOU SHOWED ME BEAUTY INCARNATE.

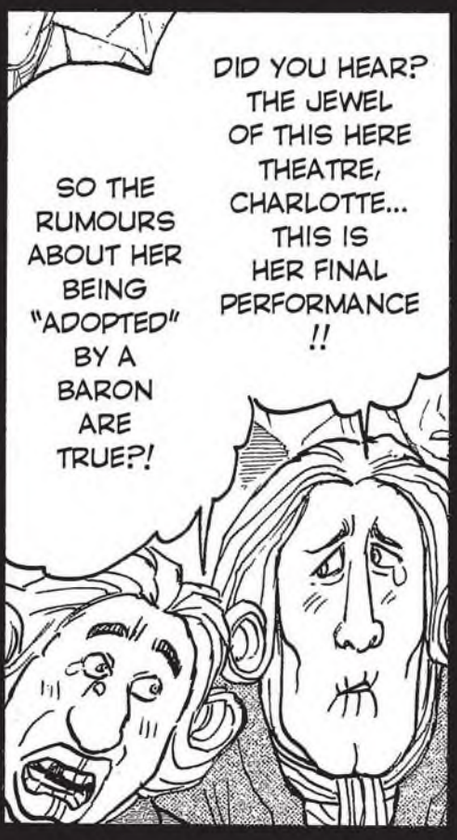


SURELY, A COMMON TALE...

SOME POOR BASTARD TRANSPORTED FROM REALITY, SEDUCED BY THE EMOTIONS OF THE STAGE... UNAWARE OF HIS POSITION AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE.

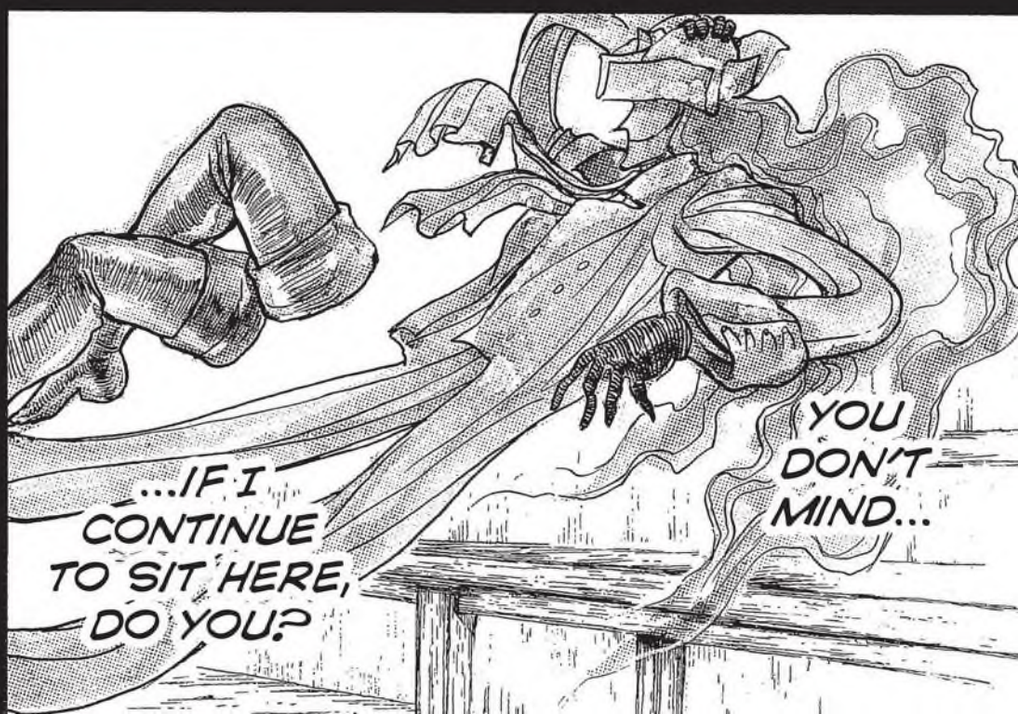
A DREAM THAT I COULD NEVER HOLD ON TO...

STILL...


SO THE RUMOURS ABOUT HER BEING "ADOPTED" BY A BARON ARE TRUE?!
DID YOU HEAR? THE JEWEL OF THIS HERE THEATRE, CHARLOTTE... THIS IS HER FINAL PERFORMANCE !!

CHARLOTTE, MY DEAR...

SO...



BUT NO MATTER... I WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH...
THEIR VOICES ARE DISTANT TO MY EAR...
TOO BAD. I WAS A FAN...
I LOVE THE STAGE...
NOW, CHARLES...
SO MANY DREAMS TO SEE...
AND AS I SIT HERE LONG ENOUGH, CHARLOTTE...
...IS BOUND TO APPEAR NOW.
TASTE THE STORY OF DEON AND I...
...AND THAT'S IT.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HER... CHARLOTTE!
YES... SOMEDAY...

SO...
HM?

I WAS JUST EXPLAINING MY CONNECTION TO D'BON!

NEXT WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? WAS HEARING ABOUT MY PITIFUL BETRAYAL AND DEATH UPSET YOU?! I DON'T NEED THESE CHEAP TEARS OF YOURS!

THE REASON FOR MY SAD-NESS IS...!
NO. THAT'S NOT IT!
BUT I'M SORRY FOR CRYING !!
I.. JUST...
...AND I'VE RUN 'ROUND IT ALL SEARCHIN' FOR YE! ARE YE HURT?
IT'S FIVE MILES 'ROUND THE HOSPITAL ...
AHHH
HHHH
AH! MISS NIGHTINGALE! THERE YE ARE!
BUT I HAVE GIBEY WITH ME...
BOB! CALL ME BOW! I WAS SO WORRIED!
FOR ME? ROBERT...

LITTLE BRAT...
HE CAN'T RELY ON A USELESS GHOST LIKE HER...
SCUTT
BUT WE'RE NOT AFRAID, D'BONE! POWERFUL BLADES MADE BRAT STEEL
WILL RETURN
YES. I'LL COUNT ON YOU
I'LL BE YER PROTECTOR FROM NOW ON. WE'S NIGHTMARE DALE!

OH... THE TEA'S GONE COLD —
I WAS SO DEEP INTO YOUR STORY, I NEVER NOTICED —
THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY STORY...
OH, NONSENSE! ...BUT I AM CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT MISS FLORENCE SAID...
BEING ABANDONED BY YOUR MOTHER, BETRAYED BY YOUR FIANCÉ, AND THEN BETRAYED ONCE MORE BY THE WOMAN YOU LOVED JUST AS YOU WERE PREPARING TO ELOPE WITH HER... WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE MORE UPSETTING THAN THE STORY OF YOUR TATTERED LIFE, MR. GREY...?
WHEN SHE MENTIONED HER "MADNESS," WHAT EXACTLY DID SHE MEAN BY THAT?
BUT IF YOU WERE NOT THE MEANT BY "MADNESS" —
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT —
I WAS SO DEEP IN MY OWN THOUGHTS...
O-OH... PARDON ME...!

AND NOW FLO AND THE OTHER NURSES, THEIR BATTLE CONTINUED.
AFTER THAT INCIDENT, ROUSED INTO THE HOSPITAL ONCE AGAIN.

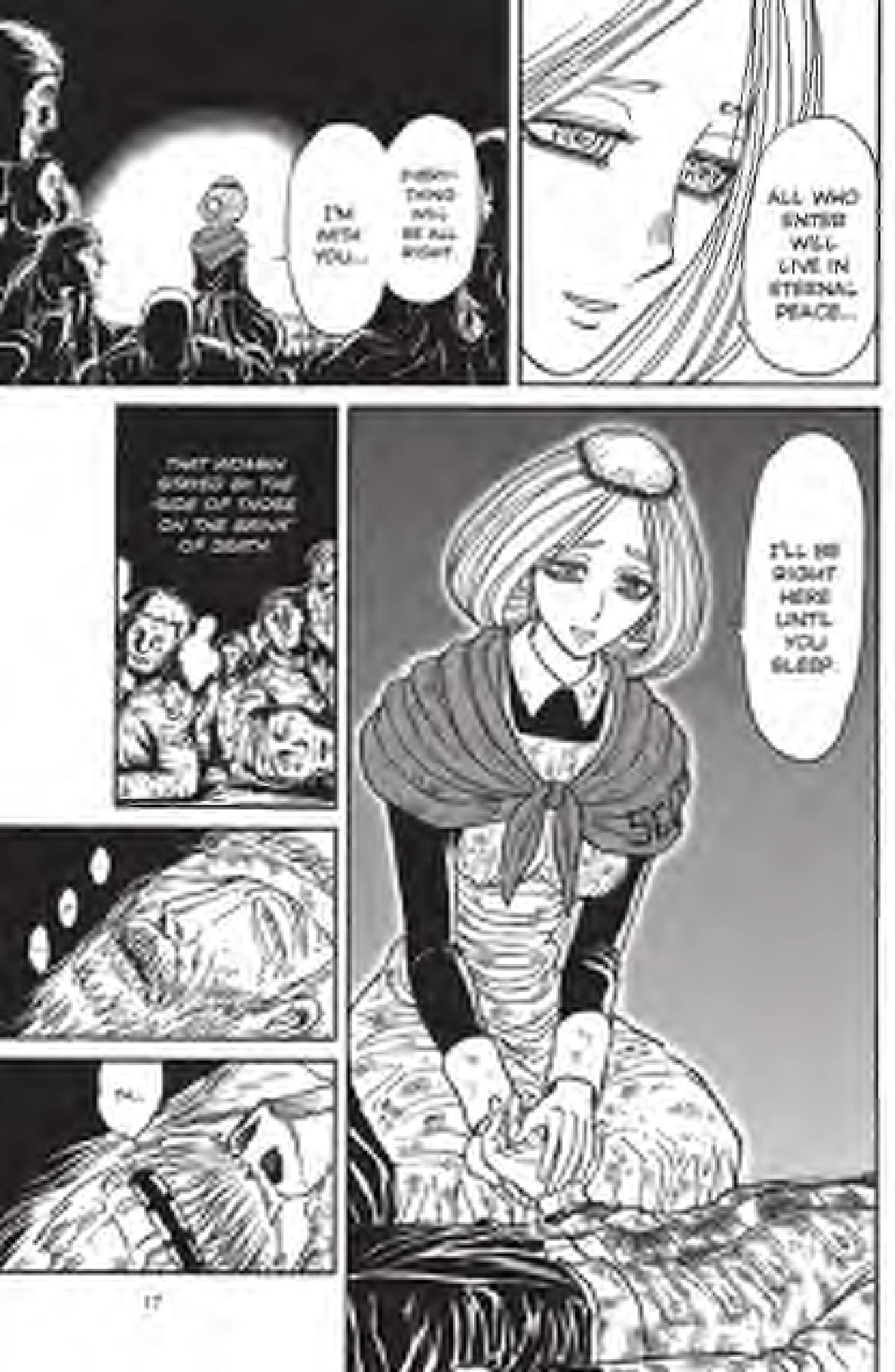
FLO AND ARLENE THAT EVEN A GHOST LIKE ME COULDN'T QUITE FIGURE OUT...
FOOD SUPPLIES FROM GUNSMAN TROOPS SHOULD BE ARRIVING SOON.
I'M HERE TO TELL THE PERSONNEL AND THEN HELP NEED TO PREPARE THE BOATS.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THIS...

OF COURSE! IF I DON'T GO, THEN WHO WOULD?
SCOUT
AGAIN, FLO?! YOU'RE ALWAYS FIRST TO RUSH TO THE SCENE...

I JUST DO ...
...WHAT I MUST.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.
YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF IF YOU CONTINUE LIKE THIS.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT YOU HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL ALREADY.
OH, A NURSE! JUST IN TIME! WE JUST ARRIVED!
QUICKLY! COME AND TAKE CARE OF THESE SOLDIERS!
AND...
IT'S BECAUSE I CAN HEAR THE VOICES OF EDOLONS... I CAN EVEN TELL WHICH EDOLONS BELONG TO NEW ONTENTE.
AS SOMEHOW BEHIND THE ARRIVAL OF THE BRAVELY POUNDED! SHE HAS AT THEM SHE BEFORE ANYONE EVEN THEY HERE THERE.
YES! OVER HERE !!

GOD WILL SURELY OPEN THE GATES OF HEAVEN FOR HIM...
...IT'S ALL RIGHT
THAT LASS AIN'T LEFT TO DIE...
...BENSON HE'LL GO SOON


I'M WITH YOU...
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
ALL WHO ENTER WILL LIVE IN ETERNAL PEACE...
THAT WOMAN STANDS ON THE SIDE OF THOSE ON THE BRINK OF DEATH.
I'LL BE RIGHT HERE UNTIL YOU SLEEP.

...UNTIL THEY NEVER RETURNED FROM THEIR SURFACE!
AND STAYED WITH THEM.
WHY DO YOU DO THAT, FLOP
FLOP
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I CRIED AFTER HEARING YOUR STORY?
PERHAPS... STILL GREY...
AFTER HEARING YOUR STORY, I MADE A PROMISE TO MYSELF.
I DO NOT TAKE PITY ON PEOPLE SO EASILY... BUT...
AND
IF THAT WASN'T OUT OF PITY FOR ME, THEN WHAT WERE YOU SO SAD ABOUT?
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR THEM... THEY PROBABLY CAN'T EVEN HEAR YOU.

ANY ILL PATIENT WHOM I SEE BEFORE ME, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE...
...I SHALL NOT LET THEM DIE ALONE.
SCUT

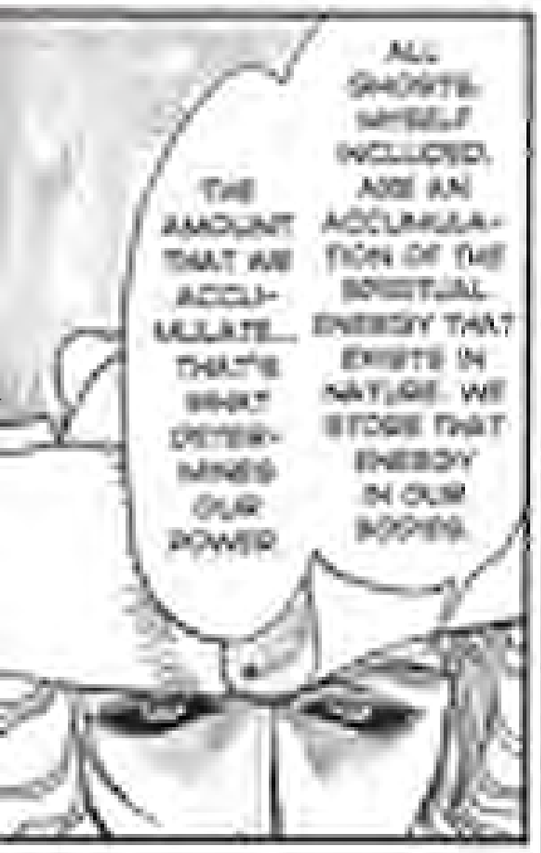
YOU WON'T LET THEM DIE... ALONE?

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I NEED TO DO AS WELL.
I SEE. DO AS YOU WISH.
AND HER PROMISE... WOULD EVENTUALLY CAUSE HER TO MAKE A DECISION OF HER OWN.

IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING NEW BETWEEN US.
THIS MARKED A TURN IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.
End of Chapter 14

SORRY FOR MAKING A MESS OF YOUR FLOOR.

OH, NO. I DON'T MIND. BUT I SEE THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO HOLD A CUP.
I THOUGHT THAT GHOSTS WERE UNABLE TO MOVE OBJECTS.
WELL, I CAN ONLY MOVE LIGHT ITEMS. BUT YOU'RE AWARE OF GHOSTS OTHER THAN MYSELF...
...AND MAY SCATTER PAPER OR MAKE LOUD NOISES. AREN'T YOU?
THAT'S WHAT GHOSTS CAN TYPICALLY DO.


ALL GHOSTS- MYSELF INCLUDED- ARE AN ACCUMULATION OF THE SPIRITUAL ENERGY THAT EXISTS IN NATURE. WE STORE THAT ENERGY IN OUR BODIES.
THE AMOUNT THAT ARE ACCUMULATE... THAT'S WHAT DETERMINES OUR POWER.

OH, YES! D'ECH ARE CARRYING THAT BRIEFCASE AND HAD KILLED THE BIRD INSIDE... HOW WAS THAT POSSIBLE...?!
HEY! SIT BACK OVER THERE!

BUT... THAT BASTARD WAS DIFFERENT.
HUH?
I'M TALKING ABOUT D'ECH.

Chapter 15

THE GHOST EDUCATES THE LADY.

A SELFISH MAN LIKE YOU HAS MANY ENEMIES. A QUALITY THAT ALIGNS WITH MY INTERESTS.
OH!— HAUNTING YOU HAS KEPT ME FROM BOREDOM.
UNTIL NOW. YOU'VE STOPPED THE HEARTS OF ALL MY ENEMIES —
HOW COULD YOU HAVE SURVIVED THIS...!?

THEN WHY HAVE YOU FAILED TO KILL NIGHTINGALE YET
THAT UNPARALLELED WOMAN RANCIDS HERSELF THE SAVIOUR OF SOLDIERS UNCOVERING THE HOSPITAL'S EVERY IMPERFECTION!
THAT WOMAN IS FLINGING MUD IN MY FACE! AND YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO KILL HER... D'ECAL DON'T TELL ME YOUR SKILLS HAVE WANED...
I "SUNDLY" NOTHING
PERHAPS I WAS NOT CLEAR ENOUGH, ENGLISH. I FAIL HER GOVERNANT ALLUSION AND MERELY THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE A WASTE TO KILL HER NOW
...MY SOLDIERS
What, What, What...
A certain medical officer such as herself cannot command a respect, validity phenomenally such as myself...

...I'LL PLACE THIS PHANTOM SWORD AT YOUR CHIN AND SLICE YOUR HEAD IN TWO WITH THE DEPTHS OF A GUILLOTINE'S RAGE!
I ASK YOU TO BE MINDFUL OF YOUR WORDS, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.
UNDERSTAND THAT I AM WITH YOU ONLY BECAUSE IT ALLOWS ME TO KILL MANY PEOPLE...
THE NEXT TIME YOU DARE MISTAKE ME FOR ONE OF YOUR UNDERLINGS...
NEXT TIME, I WILL KILL HER.
WELL, THEN
JUST SO! AND WHEN I HAD PUT SO MUCH INTO DRIVING HER TO DESPAIR TO TAKE HER LIFE!
A GHOST WHO COULD ATTACK FROM ANYWHERE!
OH MY! SO MISS NIGHTINGALE WAS BEING TARGETED BY A RATHER FRIGHTFUL ASSASSIN!

I DID NOT!
BUT AT THE TIME YOU DIDN'T KNOW AND HAD BEAT IT(him) TO ASSASSINATE MISS NIGHTINGALE, DID YOU?
OF COURSE NOT. THAT'S THE LEADING LADY IN MY TRAGEDY!
THAT'S WRONG! YOU CAN'T JUST LET SOMEONE ELSE COME OUT OF NOWHERE AND KILL MISS NIGHTINGALE!
Seacoast Army Field Hospital
YOU KNOW MY WELL, MADAM CURATOR!
SO YOU SET OUT TO STOP THE ASSASSINATION BEHIND IT ALL, DIDN'T YOU?
BUT BEFORE I COULD...
ANYWAY— THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WAS PLANNING TO DO...
OH DEAR. I...DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME...

I HEAR YOU ACQUIRED 4000 FLANNEL SHEETS... BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN A SINGLE ONE AROUND!
I WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE HIS SHOP, BUT THE OTHERS ARE FILTHY WITH FLEAS AND LICE!
THERE'S NO POINT IN USING THESE!

HE WILL HOLD A FLEET WITH

AND THE PLANNING WON'T GET A PENNY
THE CHAMBER POTS ARE FULL
SOME ONE'S GOT TO EMPTY THEM...

EACH PERSON ONLY GETS A PINT OF WATER A DAY! THAT'S NOT EVEN ENOUGH TO WASH WOUNDS!

Hmm... Right... please...
Please... I mean Right... Let's get going as

THE SANITARY CONDITIONS HERE ARE DREADFUL...
3,000 PATIENTS ARE CRAMMED INTO FACILITIES THAT COULD BARELY SUPPORT 1,700...
SINCE FLORENCE AND ARRIVED, THINGS APPEARED TO HAVE IMPROVED AT THE HOSPITAL.
BUT THEY STILL AMOUNTED FOR NOTHING.

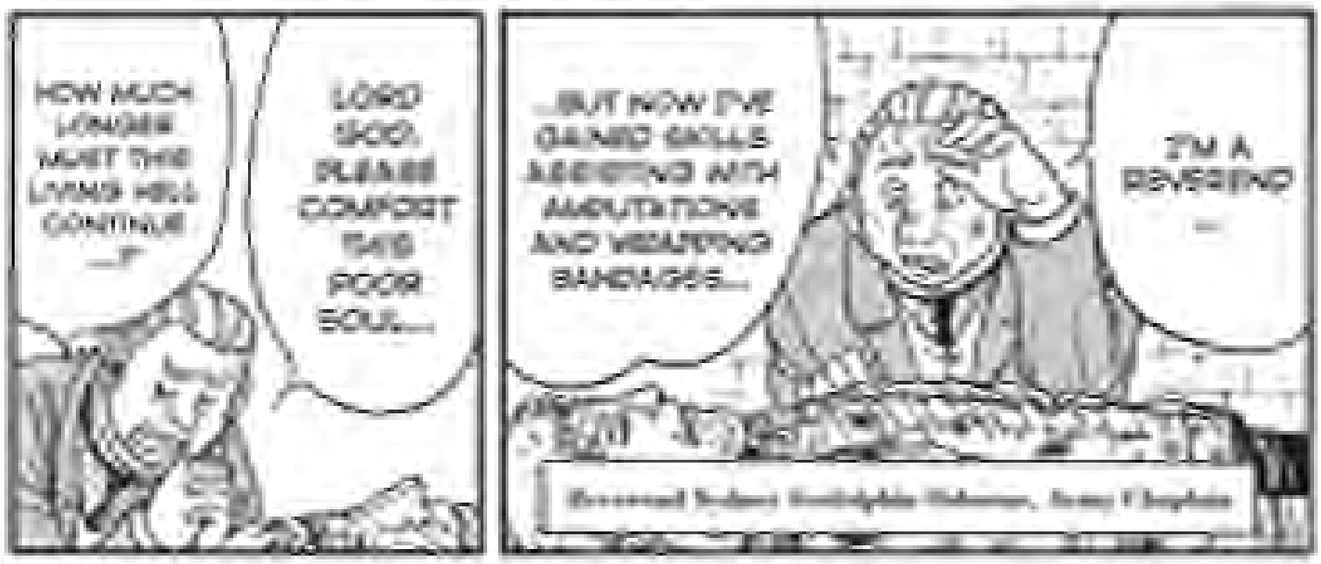
YWOOO!
AND THOSE ALLEGEDLY CONTINUED TO SPEAK!
ooO
IT'S AS IF... THIS MASSIVE HOSPITAL IN SCUTARI IS CURSED.
AND THE SUPERIOR OFFICERS TURN A BLIND EYE TO IT ALL...
THE MILITARY'S RULES REQUIRE THAT I FOLLOW COMMISSIONS' PROCEDURES IN EVERY SINGLE MATTER...
...IT'S FUTILE. I THOUGHT I COULD ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING HERE. BUT...

...IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE FOR ME TO DO SO MUCH?
BUT...
FOOD PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION HAVE TO BE MODIFIED...
THE PURIFICATION DEPARTMENT NEEDS TO BE REORGANIZED... AND SANITATION OFFICERS NEED TO BE APPOINTED...
HAVE YOU BECOME USED TO DARKNESS?
...I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT...
SO EVEN IF YOU KILL ME IN THE THROES OF DESPAIR, I DOUBT THAT IT WILL MAKE FOR A GLORIOUS DISPLAY OF THEATRE...
...GEEZ... I'M JUST A PLAIN AND MISERABLE WOMAN.

I'M BOBBY.
NOT HIT.
I'LL JUST CONTINUE TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.
...
CAUSE, BEFORE I KILL YOU...
...I PROMISE NOT TO DIE.
THEN I GUESS...
I CAN'T KILL YOU YET...
...
THAT BETTER BE SOMETHING TO TEACH YOU!
OH... OF COURSE...
ALL MY HARD WORK WOULD GO UP IN SMOKE!
I CAN'T HAVE YOU DYING IN SOME GOD PLACE!
AND STRANGE ASSIGNMENTS TO BOOT...
TOO MUCH WORK.
THERE'S TOO MUCH STRESS.

OKAY... YOU WANT TO... TEACH ME SOME-THING?
YOU CAN USE THIS TO GET WHAT YOU WANT IN LIFE.
IT'S WHAT I LEARNED AS A PUNISHER— MY STYLE OF COMBAT.
WELL? DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
GOOD. THEN LISTEN WELL.
YES. PLEASE TEACH ME!
HEY! DO YOU BLOODY WANT TO OR NOT?!

A WORD, PLEASE —
CAN I HELP YOU?
AH, MISS NIGHTINGALE.


HOW MUCH LONGER MUST THIS LYING HELL CONTINUE —?
LORD SIOO, PLEASE COMFORT THIS POOR SOUL...
...BUT NOW I'VE GAINED SKILLS ASSISTING WITH AMPUTATIONS AND WEAVING BANDAGES...
I'M A REVEREND —

...WE REQUIRE YOUR ASSISTANCE TO REMOVE THIS HOSPITAL.
AND YOU ARE —?
SIR

You see, Fiz, when fighting against a large foe, you need allies.
MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?

THIS PLACE IS A NIGHT-MARE!
MR. STUPOGO, YOU CAME HERE OF YOUR OWN ACCORD TO INVESTIGATE THE DUPLICATIONS OF THIS HOSPITAL'S STAFF, DID YOU NOT?
Mr. Augustus Stupogo, Bureau of Parliament
HOW?
SIR... WE NEED YOUR HELP...
I CAN'T RETURN HOME AND ABANDON THESE MEN.
IT TOOK SOME EFFORT TO EVEN COME INTO THIS HOSPITAL. BUT WITH THE INCREASE IN SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS, THEY HAVE ME ON KITCHEN DUTY HAULING PIPES AROUND.
EVEN WHEN COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES, YOU MUST CALM YOURSELF AND SEARCH AROUND YOU. BE SURE THERE WILL BE SOMEONE WHO WILL RISING TO YOUR SIDE.
WHAM!

AND YOU REFUSE IT?!
THE MONEY IN THE TIMES FUND HAS BEEN DONATED BY THE GOOD PEOPLE OF BRITAIN TO HELP THE SOLDIERS IN CRIMEA!
UN-NECESSARY ?!

DO YOU EVEN COMPREHEND JUST HOW MUCH OF A NUISANCE THAT REPORTER RUSSELL HAS BEEN TO US?!

I CAME HERE TO ADMIN-ISTER THESE FUNDS!
Mr. Macdonald, Manager for The Times

DAMN! STUB-BORN FOOL!

YOU ARE IN NO POSI-TION TO BE SAYING THAT!
THE ARMY WILL NOT SULLY ITS HONOUR BY ACCEPTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE BRITISH PEOPLE!
DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE WILL MERELY RECEIVE YOUR MONEY AS IF IT WERE A BLESSING!

I'M FLORENCE NIGHTIN-GALE.

AHEM

HEY!
YOU ARE ALREADY AND A PART OF HISTORY
DEBATE PLANS WITH THEM
AFTER FINDING YOUR PLACE
WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING? ON WHOSE APPROVAL?
CONSTRUCTION?
A LAUNDRY SO...
THE LICE PROBLEM WAS QUITE SERIOUS, YOU SEE... YOU SHOULD RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL DECREE SOON.
A... AN MD...?
...DO NOT HAVE CONCERN ON THAT ACCOUNT.
BUT... THE COST...
OH, I COMMISSIONED THIS, ACTUALLY.
STOP! TEAR IT DOWN!

THIS IS THE PERFECT MOMENT TO MAKE USE OF THE TIMES FUND!

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE BOLTON ARMY WORKING TO SUPPLY CLEAN CLOTHES AND LINEN
A BOILER WAS INSTALLED AND THE SOLDIERS' WIVES WERE HIRED TO WORK THE LAUNDRY

KETTLES AND POTS! WE'VE GOT FOOD TOO!
THEY'RE HERE! THE WINTER CLOTHES! THEY EVEN HAVE SOCKS!

LET'S KEEP IT UP!

THIS WAS ATTACHED BY MR. THE SENIOR PURSER.
THERE WAS NO REQUISITION FOR THIS! IT'S A VIOLATION OF MILITARY PROTOCOL!
WHAT'S THIS COMMUNICATION A?

BUT EXPECT AN OFFICIAL ORDER FROM SECRETARY OF STATE AT WAR, MR SIDNEY HERBERT.

I MADE A REQUEST TO THE PURVEYORS BUT THEY SEEMED PRE-OCCUPIED SO THIS WAS FIRST DONE AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE.
A-HA YOU...

Dear
SECRETARY OF STATE...

...but when faced with such an enemy, simple day tactics...
An OCCUPANT required soon, it needs much, MUCH tougher.

Next is how to update your OCCUPANT.

Are they
mobilized by
Gomorrah's
orders? If so,
target that
someone.
First inhibit it to
take your enemy
more upon Flo

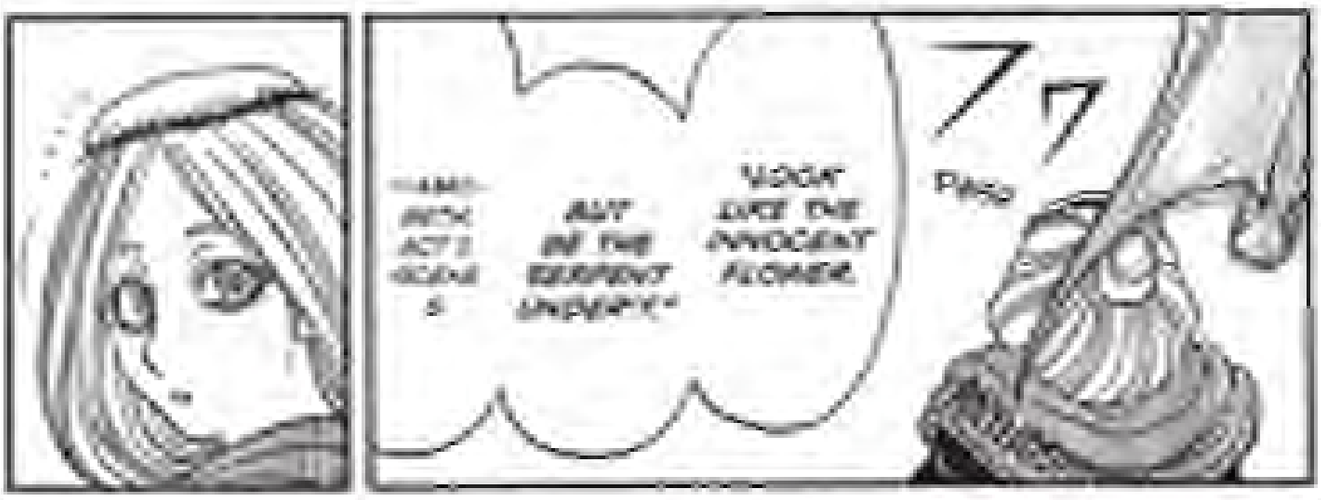
AGAIN,
I EXPRESS
MY DEEPEST
APPRECIATION FOR
AN OPPORTUNITY
AS GENERAL
DIRECTOR.
ESSENTIALLY
I HAVE A FURTHER
REQUEST.
MY DEAR
MR. HERBERT

DEAR CHIEF
MEDICAL
OFFICER
CUMMINS...
DEAR
AMBASSADOR
STAFFORD,
CARE OF THE
CONSTANTINOPLE
BRITISH
EMBASSY...

Your pressure
will come back to
your enemy, and
then you will get
what you desire.
Use designer
drug connections,
use psychological
warfare...
Use everything
in your arsenal
to apply
pressure.
Appeal to
Cecile and
make
Alice your
enemy.

...TO
FIGHT
MY
BATTLE
—
GREY...
THANK
YOU...
I CAN
USE
THIS...

ATTACK
ON EVERY
FRONT.
YOU ARE
FIGHTING
A WAR,
FLO.



End of Chapter 15

WHAT OF IT?
YOU'RE FOND OF TOBACCO, AREN'T YOU?
MR. SHERLOCK
Now

OF COURSE NOT... IT'S BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH...
OH, IT'S JUST THAT YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO SMOKE WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE...
HEH HEH

IT'S BETTER TO SMOKE THESE AFTER YOU'VE DIED, YOU KNOW... OH, AND I SHOULD MENTION THAT THIS CIGARETTE HERE IS SIMILAR TO MY HAT IN THAT IT IS A "PHANTOM" OF THE REAL THING

I HAD JUST GONE OUT TO FIND AND STOP THE PERSON WHO SENT AN ASSASSIN AFTER H.O...
HEH, HEH... LET'S CONTINUE YOUR STORY...

YOU KNOW, CIGARETTE SMOKING GAINED POPULARITY IN ENGLAND RIGHT AROUND THE CRIMEAN WAR.
OH MY! WHY IS THAT?
IT WAS THANKS TO THE TURKISH AND RUSSIAN SOLDIERS. THEY SMOKED THE TOBACCO SO WE LEARNED IT FROM THEM.

16
THE GHOST AND THE LADY'S RESPECTIVE ROLES

HAVING CRUSHED A DEMON ALL BY YOURSELF, YOU'RE COMPOSED YOUR ORDINARY SELF...
YOUR CALMNESS AFTER SO COMPLETELY YOUR ORDINARY MISSION...

I HAD AN INKLING OF WHERE TO FIND HIM IT WAS FROM SOMETHING THAT ARCHER THE CHEVALIER D'EON HAD SAID TO ASTOLFO
OHH... BE QUIET...

PUSHIN' THE I.V. ON US PUERTO-RICO.
ALL WHILE THE BIG WIGS IN THE MEDICAL OFFICE ARE LIVIN' IN COMFORT SOME NERVE THEY'VE GOT
WE'RE HERE GNAWING AWAY ON BEEF-HARD SALTED MEATS AND DRIED BEANS.
AND THEY'VE GOT THEIR STEAK AND WINE AND FINE VINEGARS AND SPICES.

DID YOU KNOW? THIS HOSPITAL'S IN DESPERATE NEED OF SUPPLIES. SO WHY'S OUR COUNTRY IGNORING US?
SHUSH, YOU.
WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF A MEDICAL OFFICER HEARS!
THE ARMY CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, RIGHT?

OUR ENTIRE FACILITY IS OPERATING SUFFICIENTLY...
...AND TO SATISFACTION.

IT'S DR. JOHN HALL.

YEAH. DR. HALL REPORTED BACK TO ENGLAND AFTER FIRST COMING HERE FOR AN INSPECTION.

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
...OUR MARCH WE ARE NOT LACKING.
AND WE ARE DEEPLY SATISFIED WITH OUR STOCK OF GOODS...

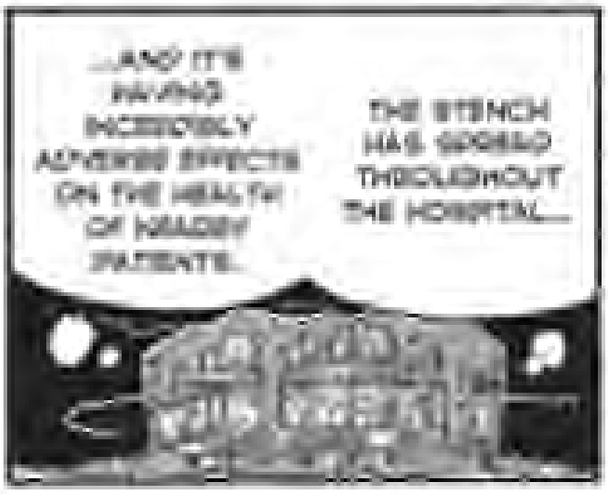
...HE USES FORCE TO SILENCE ANYONE WHO WOULD REPORT THE TRUTH.
AND TO KEEP THE LIES AFLOAT —

THOSE LIES ARE WHY WE CAN'T ASK FOR HELP FROM BACK HOME...
WHAT A PACK OF LIES...

I HEARD THE OLDER SOLDIERS TALKIN' 'BOUT IT. IT'S AWFUL —
IT IS.

HMM... SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPEN-ING...

THAT'S EASY.
I WONDER WHY THAT WILL FELLOW WOULD SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT...
STILL...
THE BOARD HAS KEEP REPORTIN' EVERYTHIN'S IN GOOD ORDER, SO THE QUEEN BELIEVES THAT'S THE WAY THINGS ARE...
AND HE WANTS TO LOOK GOOD.
HE WANTS TO BE PRAISED.
...WARS STILL FIGHTING!
I HEARD OF THAT LATER. BUT AT THE TIME, ALSO...
...PEOPLE STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND WHY HE MADE SUCH A MISTAKE...
BUT EVEN NOW...
OH MY...
IT WOULD PROBABLY COME AS A SURPRISE TO MANY, BUT IT'S LIKELY THAT THE EXPLANATION GIVEN BY SIR WAS ACCURATE...

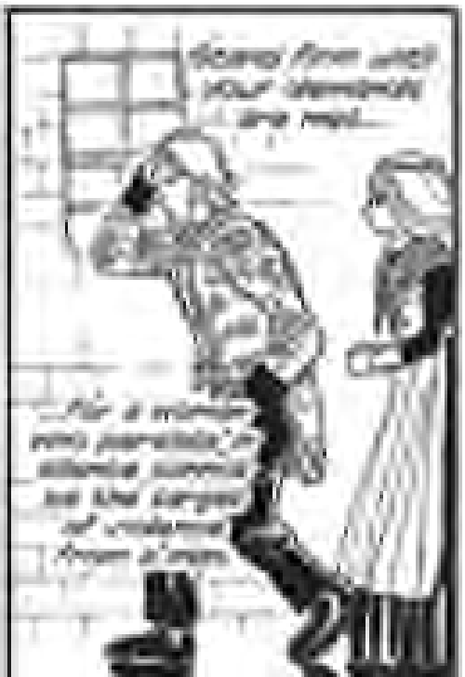

...AND IT'S HAVING INCREDIBLY ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE HEALTH OF HEALTHY PATIENTS.
THE STENCH HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE HOSPITAL...

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN. THROW OUT THE CONTENTS OF THOSE LARGE TUBS THAT YOU'VE BEEN USING AS CHAMBER POTS.

I ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT DO THAT. WHY THE BLOODY HELL'S IT GOT TO BE ME? YOU DO IT IF YOU WANT IT DONE SO BACK IT!

...AND ONLY GIVE THEM AN ANTIDOTE TO ME YOU— ...I WILL NOT RECOMMEND IT.

...AND THAT MAN...
...AND THE MAN WILL GIVE IN.


...FOR A WOMAN WHO PERMITS A STRANGE SURGEON TO USE THE SURGERY AT HOSPITAL FROM A DISTANCE.

AT A TIME LIKE THIS, SHOW SOME STRENGTH! BE ONLY A WOMAN, MA'AM.

ARGH! FINE!

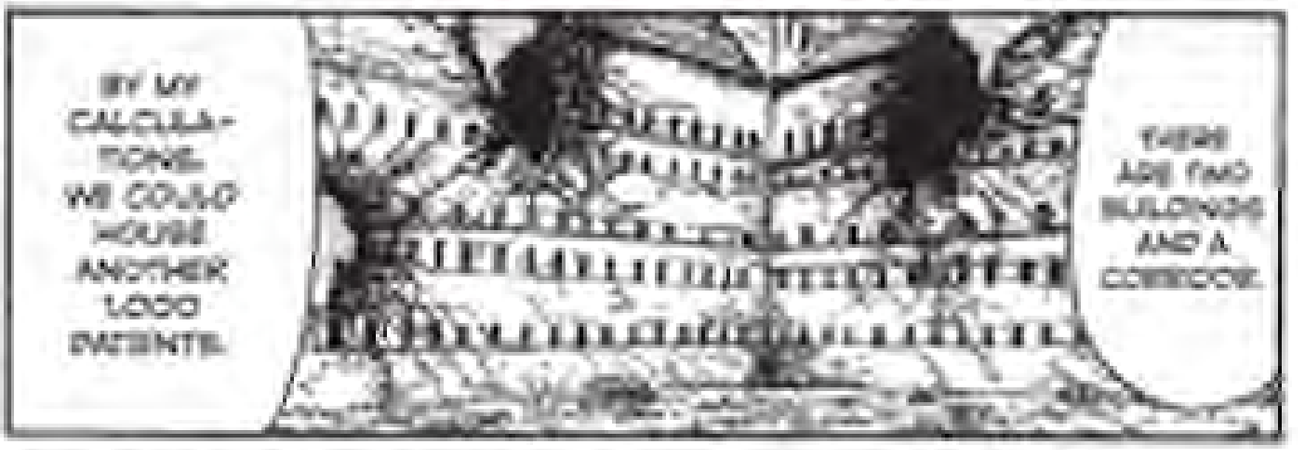
WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS IT
THE FILTH ON THE FLOOR IN THERE'S AN INCH DEEP! IT'S EVEN FLOODED INTO THE NEXT ROOM!

HEAD NURSE! DUBAS WAIT!
SLOP
SLOP

IF WE LEAVE THIS LATRINE IN ITS CURRENT STATE IT WILL ONLY SERVE TO FURTHER SPREAD DYSENTERY, FEVER, GANGRENE AND DYSENTERY!
IT IS OUR DUTY TO MAINTAIN THE SANITATION OF THIS HOSPITAL!
SLOSH
SLOSH

DO IT OUTSIDE! DON'T ADD TO THE FILTH!!
I'M GOING TO THROW UP...
STINKS!
AS WE ALREADY FORCED TO PUT THE WOUNDED ON THE FLOORS! WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO PUT THIS MANY PATIENTS?
A MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER DUGLAN... SOO SICK AND WOUNDED COMING HERE!?
I... HAVE A SOLUTION.

MISS NIGHTINGALE... WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE IT?
BEFORE THE ARMY USED THIS BUILDING, THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE THAT WAS DESTROYED BY CANNONS.
WE WILL REPAIR THAT BUILDING AND MAKE IT INTO A SERIES OF HOSPITAL WARDS.


THERE ARE TWO BUILDINGS AND A CORRIDOR.
BY MY CALCULATIONS, WE COULD HOUSE ANOTHER 1,000 PATIENTS.

BUT THE EXPENSE... WHO WILL ADD FOR IT?!
EXACTLY! NONE OF THE DEPARTMENTS WILL APPROVE SO LARGE A SUM!
THEY'RE RIGHT. AND YOU WON'T GET PERMISSION FOR IT...
REGARDING THAT, THE SECRETARY AT WAR SHOULD HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED IT WITH THE EMBASSY IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

THE AGENCY SUBMITTED A LETTER TO THE AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND.
AS FOR THE EXPENSE...
AHEM! THIS IS WHERE THE GOOD WILL OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE COMES IN. WE'LL USE THE FUNDS RAISED.
AND I'LL COVER HALF PERSONALLY.

WE SHOULD BEGIN THE REPAIR-ING!
NO, SIR!
DOCTOR CUMMING! THIS IS A CRISIS! MISS NIGHTIN-GALE IS CORRECT!
BUT...
WE'LL BEGIN THE REPAIRS IMMEDI-ATELY!
WELL THEN, I'LL TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY TO HIRE 200 WORKERS.
BUT YOUR ALTAR WAS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THE CARE OF THE ARM SICK AND WOUNDED PATIENTS. ARMS, LEGS, KNEES, FOOT... THE LIST OF NECESSARY ITEMS SEEMS ENDLESS...
REPAIRED WITH UNBELIEVABLE SWIFTNESS
THE DESTROYED PARTS OF THE TAKEN...

...FLO AND MCDONALD WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN EVERYTHING THEY NEEDED IN CONSTANTINOPLE
BUT...
...THEY ARRANGED LAST QUANTITIES OF FOOD SAMPLES ARROWROOT BRUG WITH PORT WINE
...AND IN LARGE MILK BUCKETS
わあ わあ
...THEY HAD EVERYTHING READY JUST IN TIME TO EMBARK IN THE SOO ANTENTE
...IT'S LIKE ...I'M IN HEAVEN
AHHH...

SEEMS SHE'S MAKING QUITE THE MESS OF THINGS!
PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD... THAT MRS.SIMPSON HAS BEEN INTERVIEWED BY WHAT-EVER SHE'S CALLED...IS BRINGING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY ASHAM...
...
ISN'T SHE?
THAT SICK WOMAN MAKING IMPORTANT MILITARY FUNCTIONS WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH... WHAT A NUISANCE!
THAT'S CORRECT SLO MO CHAP AT HEIGHT OF THE SECRETARY AT WAR, SIR SIDNEY HERBERT
AND THE FULL SUM SHE PROVIDED HERSELF ARE PAID BACK TO HER BY BRITAIN ITSELF...!!
AND IT'S ALL BEEN OFFICIALLY APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY OF WAR...
W... WHAT...? HALF THE MONEY WAS HER OWN?
RIGHT... IN HEAVEN'S NAME ARE YOU...?
NIGHTIN-GALE...

IT'S MOST EFFECTIVE TO INVOKE FEAR INSOMUCH AS TO SHATTER THEIR RESOLVE...
PROFOUNDLY AT THE BEGINNING. GAG THEM WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.
LISTEN WELL. WHEN YOU FIGHT, FIGHT THOROUGHLY.
YOU
AGAIN... NIGHTINGALE...
COMING FOR LATENIGHT
HOSPITAL RENOVATIONS... LAUNDRIES

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY POSITION...?
AND IN EVERYTHING SHE DOES... SHE RECEIVES BLESSING...

DAMN IT ALL...
THAT BLASTED WOMAN...

TH... THOSE SOLDIERS ARE NOTHING BUT VULGAR BEASTS COLLECTED FROM THE SCUM OF THE LOWER CLASS.
ILLITERATE DRUNKEN PIECES OF REFUSE. FIT ONLY AS FODDER TO DIE FOR THEIR COUNTRY!

ALTHOUGH MISS NIGHTINGALE'S ACTIONS HAVE BEEN STRICTLY REGULATED, SHE HAS NOT CEASED HER OPERATIONS. SHE SHIELDS HERSELF UNDER THE ERA OF "HELPING THE SICK AND WOUNDED."

THOSE HOSTILES SOLDIERS WILL SHOW NO QUARTER!

I KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE... BUT NIGHTINGALE
WHY DO YOU DO THIS FOR THOSE... UNDESERVING PITIFUL PEOPLE...
I MUST DO SOMETHING... I MUST...
Enough, already!

BUT ...!

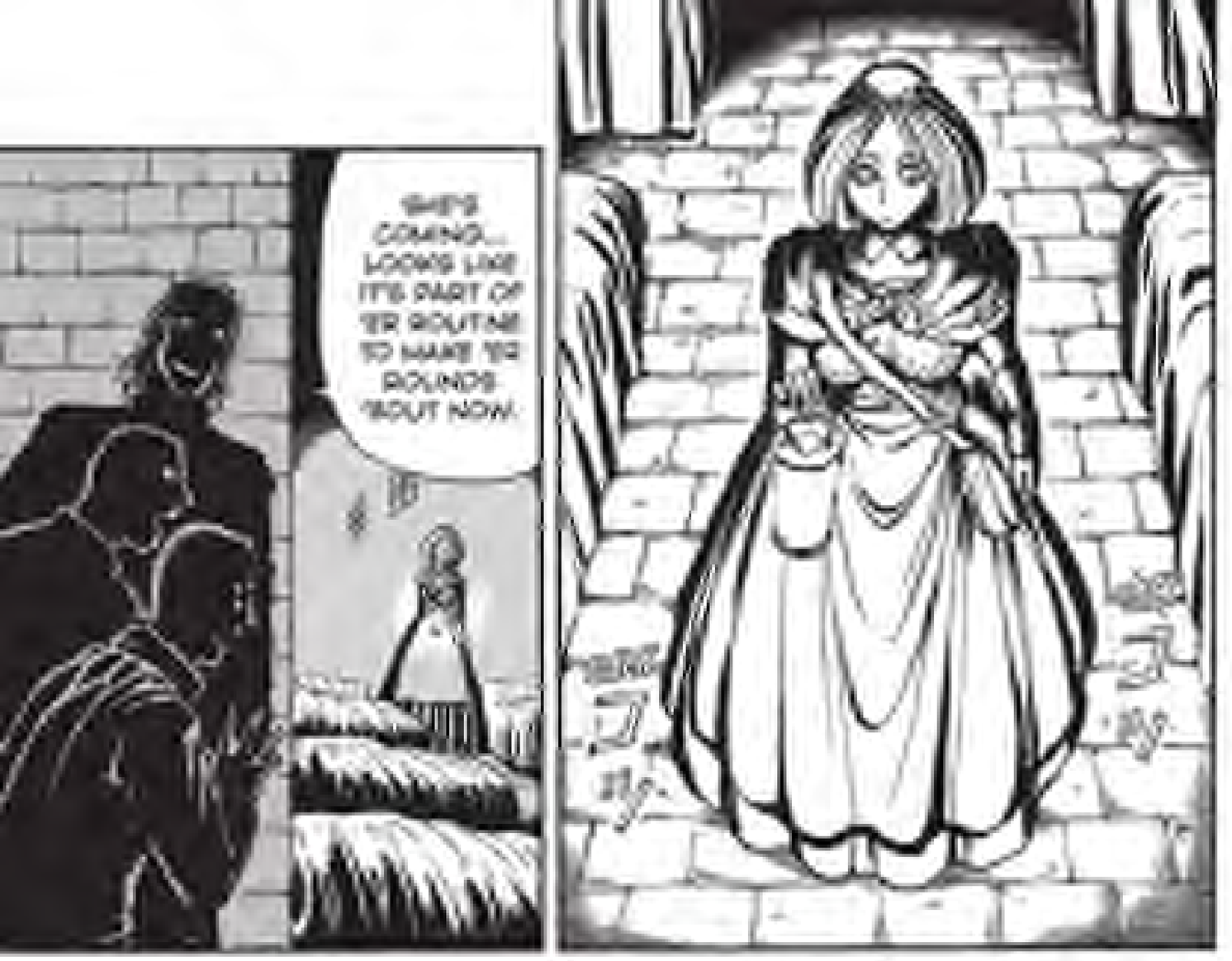
I will kill her soon enough ...
BUT ... YES...

SO HE'S THE FIEND BEHIND THE CURTAIN ...
HE'S THE ONE WHO TRIED TO HAVE HER KILLED.
WHAT A LAUGH WHEN SHE SUCCUMBS TO DESPAIR.
I WILL BE THE ONE TO KILL HER.

AS IF I'D LET ANYONE KILL HER BEFORE ME!

NEXT TIME...
ORION, YOU MAY HAVE BESTED ME BEFORE, BUT THAT WAS ONLY BECAUSE YOU HAD TAKEN ME SLIGHTLY BY SURPRISE...

...I'LL BE THE ONE TO ATTACK!


SHE'S COMING... LOOKS LIKE IT'S PART OF 'ER ROUTINE TO MAKE 'ER ROUNDS 'BOUT NOW.

EASY WAY TA EARN FOUR SHILLINGS, EH?
NO ONE'LL KNOW...
WE'LL 'AVE OURSELVES A TASTE AND THEN BURY 'ER.

JOHN HALL!
I'LL KILL YOU BEFORE YOU CAN KILL FLO!

...!
End of
Chapter 16

DID THOSE MISGUIDED VILLAINS ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOAL?
SO FLORENCE WAS ATTACKED? WHAT HAPPENED TO HER THEN?

I CAN'T JUST SIT AND LISTEN WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE AS YOU TALK ABOUT MEN WHO WOULD USE VIOLENCE ON A WOMAN TO GET THEIR WAY!
THAT'S QUITE A FRIGHTENING EXPRESSION YOU HAVE, MADAM CURATOR.

THE ONES WHO SUFFERED SUCH BRUTALITY WERE...

SO WHEN I TAUGHT HER HOW TO FIGHT, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FIRST THING I TAUGHT HER WAS...?
WELL, YOU SEE... I LIED AND OBSCURED THE OUTRAGEOUS EXISTENCE OF A DUELIST.
HUH...?

THEY WERE A PAIR OF LOW-RANKING, DRUNKARD SOLDIERS FROM HALL HAD HIRED...

OH NO... MISS FLORENCE...
SUCH A SCENE OF BRUTALITY...

KEEP
Chapter 17
THE LADY RECEIVES A KISS IN A
THE SHADOWS; THE GHOST PLOTS

OUCH

Have no mercy.
KRAK
OW OW OW...!
Y-YOU BITCH!
WHO ARE YOU ?!
HUH ...?

SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND DO DOWN ALREADY !
RAAAH!
WHAM
HOSPITAL
AND...?! WHAT ABOUT YOU, MR. OBEY ...?!
...!

GOT YOU !!
A private jack... or is it "grey" now ...?
ZLASH!!

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO CONCEAL YOUR PRESENCE! YOU ATTACK IN FULL VIEW!

I'M AFRAID I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO KILL HIM... THIS MAN HAS MANY WHOM HE WOULD LIKE TO KILL. AND THAT ALIGNS QUITE NICELY WITH MY INTERESTS...

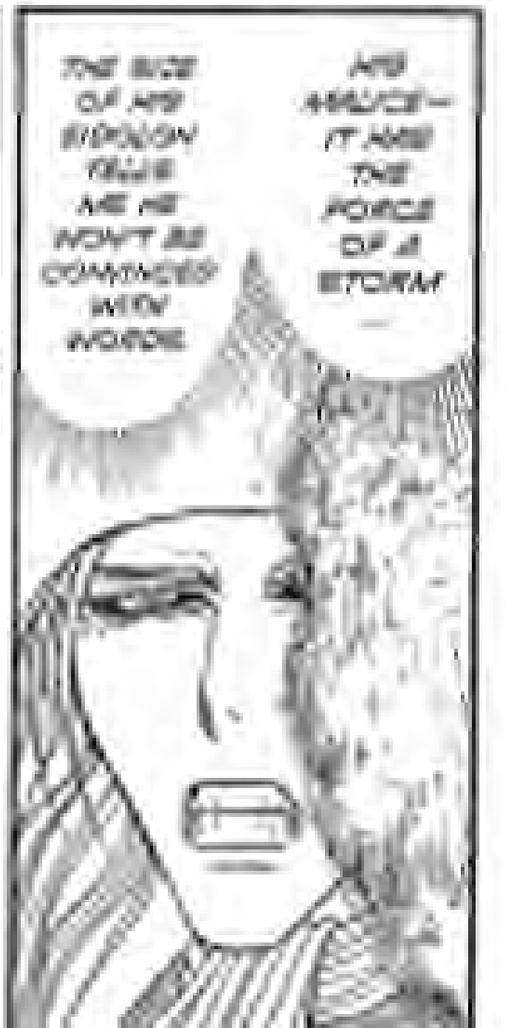
DAMN!
BLAM

D'EON... YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT'S YOUR ONLY MOTIVE IN HAUNTING HIM!"
WELL, I HEAR THAT YOU MAY HAVE SOME WORTHLESS REASONS OF YOUR OWN FOR LINGERING NEAR THAT WOMAN!
D'EON... THAT'S YOUR NAME, ISN'T IT? IF NOT FOR YOU, NIGHTING-GALE...
...WOULD HAVE BEEN LONG GLADDED TO PERISH BY STEIN.
ゴゴゴゴゴ

HALL OR WHATEVER YOU'RE CALLED... YOU CAN SEE ME. CAN'T YOU...
ARE RIDICULOUS... IT'S ABUSE...
SO I WAS NOT AT ALL ILL-DISPOSED TO SEE O'BRIAN.
I'VE HAD MY FILL OF THEM FROM A YOUNG AGE.
YES... I CAN SEE GHOSTS AS WELL AS THOSE "RIDICULOUS" ARMIES THE HEADS OF MEN...
I IMAGINE IT WAS THE SAME FOR THAT MEDDLESOME WOMAN... P
...AMED THOSE WHO SPEAK OF MAGIC AS "RIGHT AND LOST."
IT'S ALWAYS
IS IT NOT BECAUSE SHE IS THREATENING TO EXPOSE THE CHARITABLE STATE OF THIS HOSPITAL YOU MANAGE?
SO SHE'S MEDDLESOME? AND THAT'S WHY YOU WANT TO KILL HER?

FOOLS! LOVE YOUR MASTER AND FANCY THEMSELVES MARTYRS. BOOHS THAT THEY DO IT FOR CHEERS!
THEY CAN ALL GO TO HELL! EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!
SCRAPE

NIGHTINGALE IS MY GAME... I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE ELSE TO KILL HER...


AN AMBUSH— IT HAS THE FORCE OF A STORM
THE SIDE OF AN EXPLOSION FAILS ME HE WON'T BE CONVINCED WITH WORDS

I'LL KILL YOU AND OPEN WHERE YOU STAND!
BWA HA HA HA HA !!!

WHAT ?
YOU MAY BE TOO LATE
WAIT, GREY !!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!!

HE'S A SMART ONE...

FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, YOU SHOULD HOPE THAT SHE IS UN-MARRIED.

...IF YES, YOU DID, BUT I...
HALL, I SAID I'D KILL NIGHTINGALE. DON'T I...?

DAMN IT ALL!
DAMN IT!

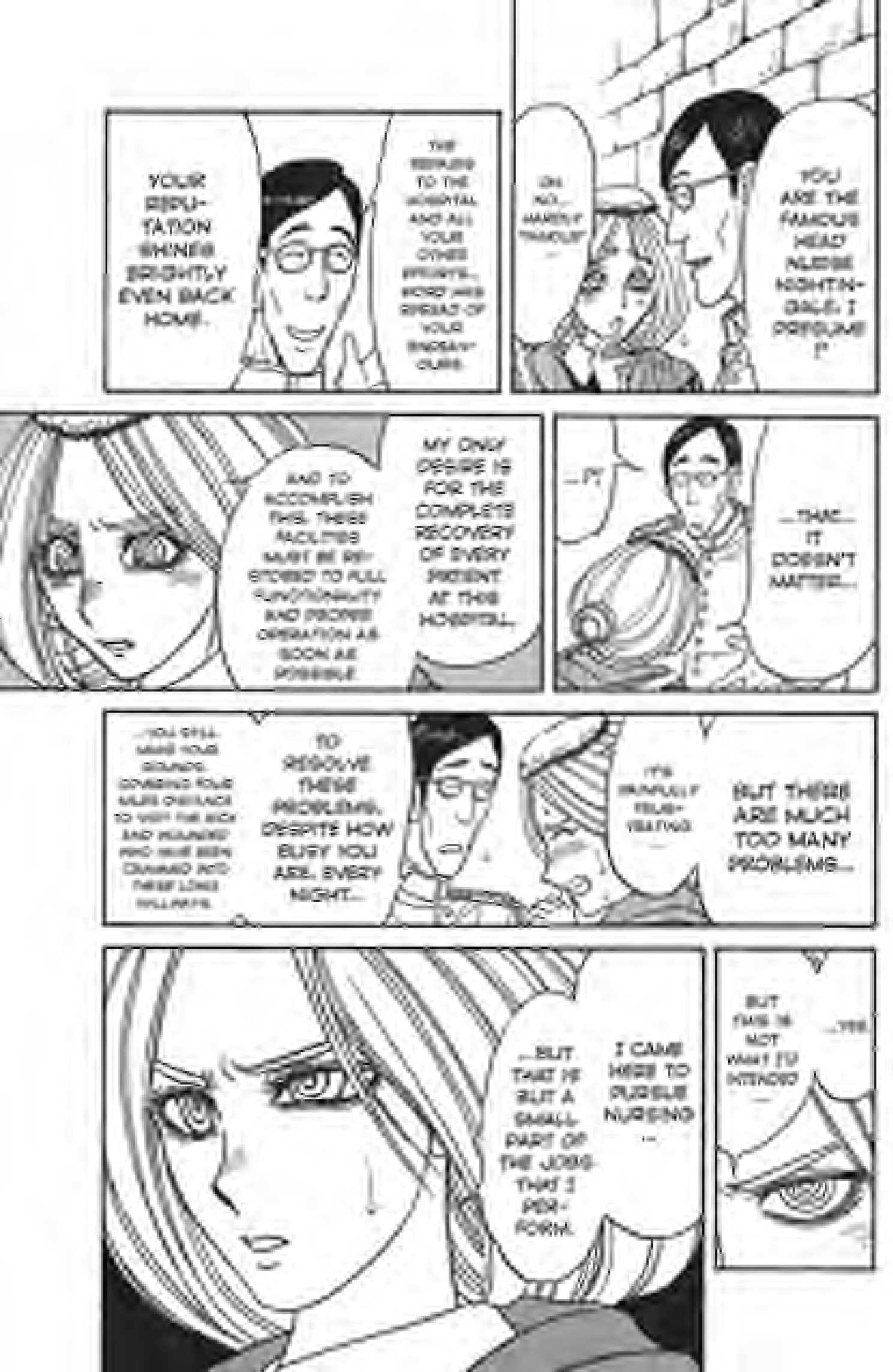
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT FLO'S SIDE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE USED OTHER PEOPLE!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?

SUCH RUDE BEHAVIOUR!
HOW UTTERLY SHAMELESS!

SIR... THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME...
TO THINK WHAT MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED IF I HADN'T HAPPENED BY! GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU!!

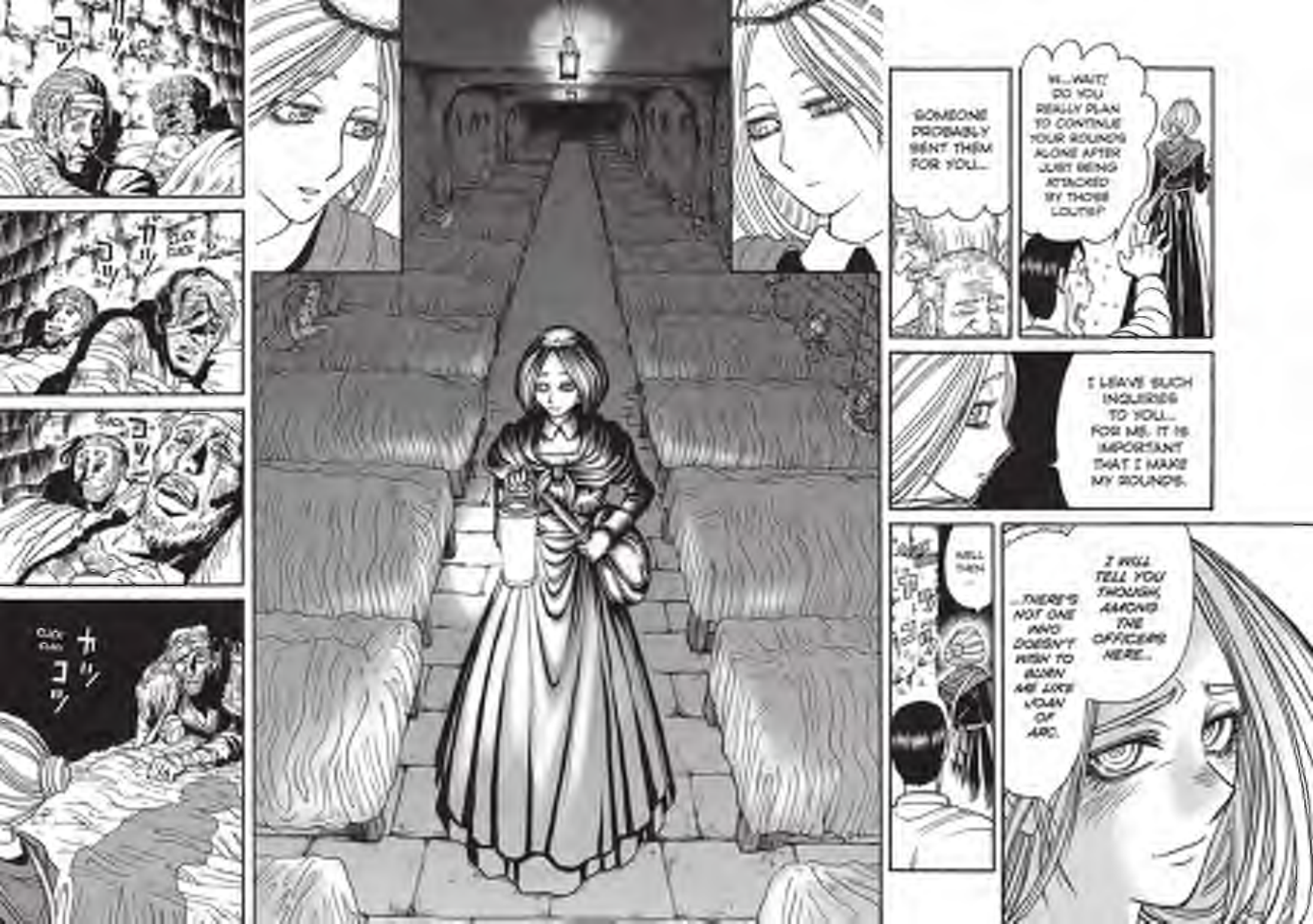
JUST ARRIVED HERE. I CAN'T SLEEP AND THOUGHT TO DO SOME EXPLORING WHEN I CAME ACROSS THIS SCENE.
AH, FORGIVE ME... COLONEL LEBROW AT YOUR SERVICE.

AND... YOU ARE ...?
NONSENSE! DESPITE WHAT I JUST SAID, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT YOU HAD ALREADY FENDED THEM OFF ON YOUR OWN...


YOU ARE THE FAMOUS HEAD NURSE NIGHTINGALE. I PRESUME!?
OH NO... MERELY FAMOUS...
THE REPORT TO THE HOSPITAL AND ALL YOUR OTHER EFFORTS... WORD HAS SPREAD OF YOUR ENDEAVORS.
YOUR REPUTATION SHINES BRIGHTLY EVEN BACK HOME.
...IT
...THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER...
MY ONLY DESIRE IS FOR THE COMPLETE RECOVERY OF EVERY PATIENT AT THIS HOSPITAL.
AND TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, THESE FACILITIES MUST BE RESTORED TO FULL FUNCTIONALITY AND PROPER OPERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BUT THERE ARE MUCH TOO MANY PROBLEMS...
IT'S MANUALLY REGULATING.
TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS, DESPITE HOW BUSY YOU ARE, EVERY NIGHT...
...YOU STILL MAKE YOUR ROUNDS, COVERING YOUR VAST CHARGE TO VISIT THE SICK AND WOUNDED WHO HAVE BEEN CRAMMED INTO THESE LONG HALLWAYS.
BUT THIS IS NOT WHAT I'D INTENDED
I CAME HERE TO PURSUE NURSING --
...BUT THAT IS BUT A SMALL PART OF THE JOBS THAT I PERFORM.

I FEEL ASHAMED TO SPEAK OF SUCH THINGS TO A COLONEL SO NEWLY ARRIVED, BUT...
ARE THINGS SO BAD HERE ...?
...THE NUNS WHO MAKE UP A LARGE PART OF THE NURSES' TROOP, SQUABBLE AMONGST THEIR ORDERS' DENOMINATIONS.
AND IF THEIR FACTIONS HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF MEMBERS, THE BLAME IS ALL PLACED UPON ME...
THEY WERE FORCED TO COME HERE, AND JOINED THIS TROUPE WITH NO NURSING EXPERIENCE.
THEIR PURPOSE HERE IS TO CONVERT THE SOLDIERS AND SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD.
WAITING TO ELIMINATE SUCH RELIGIOUS INTENT, I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PRAY MORE... AND FOR THAT I WAS ONCE MORE MET WITH CRITICISM...
BUT NOT ISABEL...
EUGH... THAT'S AWFUL...
...THE SYSTEM THAT GIVES ME NO CHOICE BUT TO SEND THEM BACK TO ENGLAND...
OTHER NURSES SPEAK TO EXCESSIVE DISREGARD MY ORDERS ...
THAT'S TERRIBLE! HAVING ME LIKE A SLAVE, DAY AND NIGHT... BALLEY I JUST DESPISE THAT NAME!"
AND THE PUBLIC VIEWING WILL NOT PERMIT US WITH ANY MEDICALLY ITEMS...
CHIEF OF STAFF SIR CUMMINGS COMMANDS US TO REVERT ANY CHANGES WE MAKE, EVEN IF THEY ARE FOR THE GOOD OF THE SOLDIERS.
AND CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER DR. JOHN HALL REJECTS ANY PROPOSAL WE PUT FORWARD.

...DESPITE OUR WORK, THIS HOSPITAL STILL HAS SOME CRITICAL ISSUE...
BUT... THE WORST OF ALL...
LARGE-SCALE...
THE SYMPTOMS ARE SIMILAR TO CHOLERA... SOMETHING CALLED "DARL FEVER"...
AND IT'S NOT FROM THE WOUNDS THAT BROUGHT THEM HERE, IT'S AN ENTIRELY NEW DISEASE...
AND YET SOME ENDEMIC CONTINUES TO KILL THE PATIENTS...
ALL THE LATRINES WERE SCRUBBED AND THE HOSPITAL SHOULD BE MOSTLY CLEAN.
72 DIED OF THE DISEASE TODAY... WE'RE BURYING BODIES 24 HOURS A DAY.
IT'S SO... FRUSTRATING...
WHY CAN'T I LESSEN THE NUMBER OF DEATHS ...?
...OH DEAR... I DIDN'T MEAN TO TELL YOU SUCH AWFUL THINGS...
IN ANY EVENT, I HAVE MY ROUNDS TO FINISH.
TAKE CARE, COUSIN...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SOMEONE PROBABLY SENT THEM FOR YOU...
W...WAIT! DO YOU REALLY PLAN TO CONTINUE YOUR ROUNDS ALONE AFTER JUST BEING ATTACKED BY THOSE LOUTS?
I LEAVE SUCH INQUIRIES TO YOU... FOR ME, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I MAKE MY ROUNDS.
WELL THEN...
...THERE'S NOT ONE WHO DOESN'T WISH TO BURN ME LIKE JOAN OF ARC.
I WILL TELL YOU THOUGH, AMONG THE OFFICERS HERE...

End of Chapter 17

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
"WHAT YOU CAN TO MAKE SURE MISS FLORENCE ISN'T KILLED" ...?
WELL, IF I TOLD YOU THAT NOW...
...THEN THAT MEANS WE'LL BE COMING TO THE CLIMAX OF FLO'S BATTLE AT THE ARMY HOSPITAL IN SOUTHIE!
HEH HEH... THAT'S A SURPRISE... NOW LISTEN...
HOW CAN WE BE... NEARING THE CLIMAX ...?
BUT... FLORENCE DOESN'T YET KNOW THE CAUSE OF THE ILLNESS SPREADING AMONGST THE PATIENTS.

chapter 18
THE LADY FIGHTS ALONE

I'VE HEARD FROM FRIENDS AT HOME... NOT THESE DAYS WILL PASS WITHOUT A LETTER FROM NIGHTINGALE

I CONTROL SCUTARI ARMY HOSPITAL AND YET IT SEEMS THAT SHE CONTINUOUSLY SENDS REQUESTS TO THE QUEEN AND POLITICIANS FOR INQUIRIES INTO THE HYGIENE OF MY FACILITIES.

IF THIS KEEPS UP, MY POSITION WILL LOSE ALL MEANING!

I MUST SEND MY OWN REPORT TO ENGLAND TO DISCREDIT THAT WOMAN'S SLANDEROUS CLAIMS!

YES SIR?
WILL LET ENGLAND KNOW HOW THAT WOMAN INTERFERES WITH OUR MISSION
CHIEF PHYSICIAN REVOKE HIS CERTIFICATE
MOBILISE THE OFFICERS TO ARTE AUTHENTIC "SECRETS" TO BE SUBMITTED BY LETTER
WE STRIKE OUT AND AIMED TO SHATTER ABOVE OUR ARCHED MAJESTY'S VOLUNTEERS TO GOOD HEALTH
WE DRIVE THE SOLDIER ARMY-POWERS UNDER CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER S.DR. VOHN WILL
HI AM AUTHORISED TO MILITARY REMOVAL
AS PRESUMPTUOUS AS THIS MAY BE FOR ME TO SAY THAT ASSIGNMENT HAS ONLY LEFT US IN A HOPELESS STATE
AS WELL AS THEIR LEADER, MRS MONTAGUE BALL
SERVICE IS ISSUED TO THE FIGURE OF NURSES THAT MEMBER OF THIS BODY MEMBER DEPARTMENT TO OUR HOSPITAL
AND WE HAVE TO CONVINCE EVERY GENERAL TO ARREST THE SUPPLY OF OUR MEDICAL OFFICERS
WE ARE SPECIAL STRAIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
WE ARE DETERMINED TO ARREST THE SUPPLY OF OUR MEDICAL OFFICERS

THEY DISCARTENED AND ABUSE CORRUPTS OUR MORES
INCOMPETENT AND UNMORAL
THE ALIENS UNDER HER COMMAND ARE ALSO DISHONEST AND

...IS IN THE FACT THAT PRIOR TO HER ARRIVAL THE MORTALITY RATE FOR SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS WAS SIX, BUT SINCE HER ARRIVAL IT HAS
THE EVIDENCE TO SUCH THE CRITICS OF THIS REPORT TO BE TRUE...

...SHE UNFAIRLY HOLDS ONLY REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS WITH
CONTRARY TO THE ACTUALITY OF FACTS MEDICAL POLICY

LOOKS DEAD AND WE'RE STUCK BURYIN' THE LOT OF 'EM... WISH THEY'D KNOW ABOUT WHAT THEY'RE PUTTIN' US THROUGH BEFORE SYM...
THE END

THAT NIGHTINGALE AND HER NURSES'VE BEEN GOIN' 'ROUND CLEANIN' UP THE PLACE, EIGHT?
BUT... I WONDER WHY THE ILLNESS WON'T GO AWAY.
EVERY DAY, EVERY DAY THAT "GAOL FEVER" CLAIMS MORE POOR SOULS
MY MASTER... THEY DIED IN HER ARMS...
THEY ALL WENT WITH A LOOK OF PEACE ON THEIR FACES...
HUM ?
IT'S "MISS" NIGHTINGALE GOTTA ADDRESS HER WITH "MISS."
I KNOW... WE'VE ALL GOT A FIGHT IN THE SKIN IS SUBJECT TO...
YEAH, BUT AS GREAT AS "MISS" NIGHTINGALE IS, THIS SICKNESS SOMETHIN' TO REAL. DON'T THINK SHE CAN DO ANYTHIN' FOR IT...
LOOK, CHEE AT HER DOOR THERE.
STILL... STILL...
...WHO KNOWS... MAYBE THIS "GAOL FEVER" WILL TAKE US ALL...
SHE... ...HASN'T GIVEN UP.

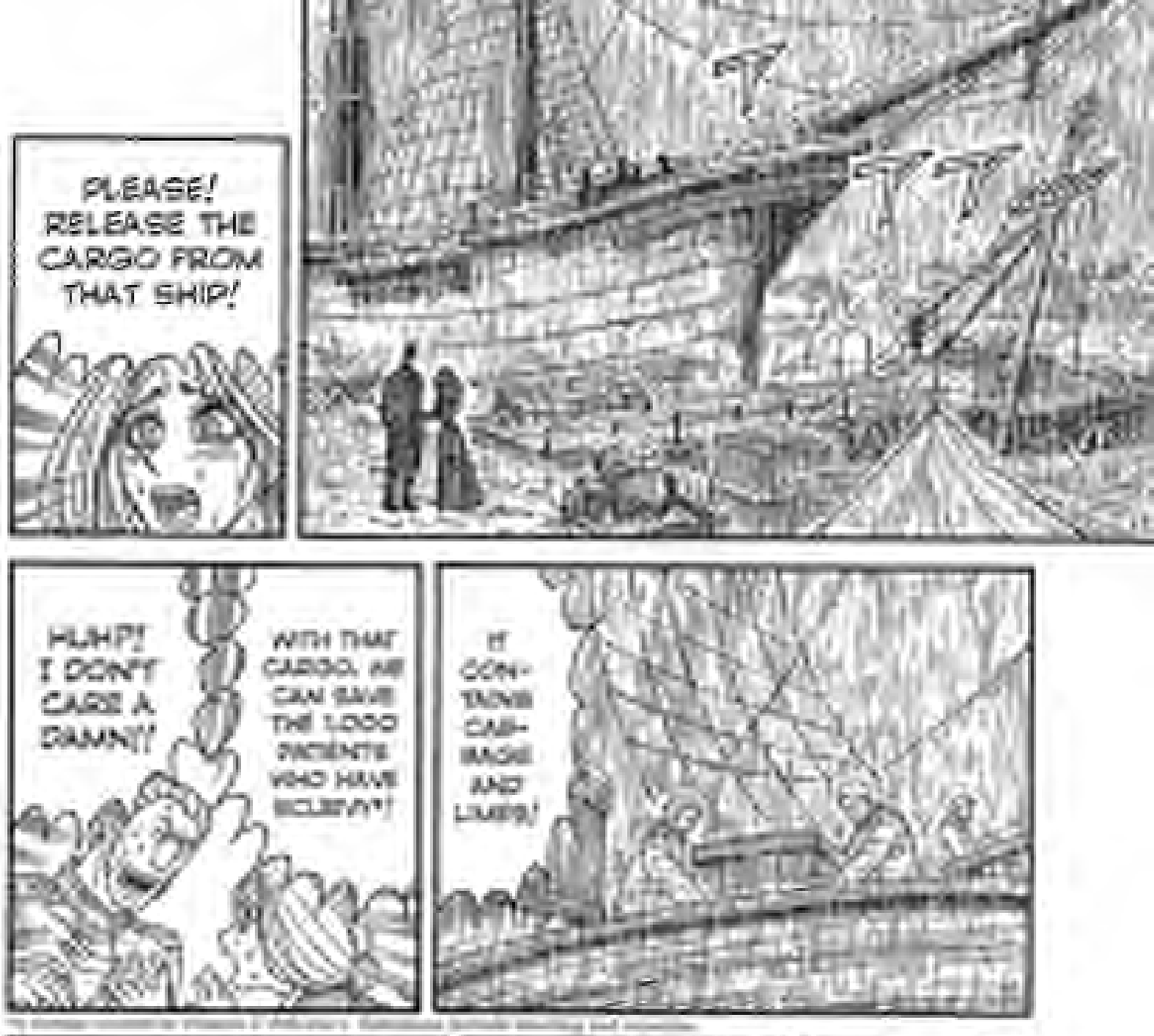
MISS NIGHT-INGALE! PLEASE!

IF I DO NOTHING, THIS "GAOL FEVER" WILL CLAIM THE LIVES OF ALL THE PATIENTS... I'LL BE DONE SHORTLY. THEN I'LL REST...
YES... BUT I WISH TO INFORM ENGLAND OF THE SITUATION HERE AT ONCE...
IF YE DON'T GET SOME REST, YE'LL RUIN YER HEALTH...

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY DO ALL THIS WITHOUT AFFECTING YOUR HEALTH...
YOU'VE EVEN BEEN WRITING TO THE NURSES' FAMILIES TOO... NOT TO MENTION THE REPORTS THAT YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON ALL NIGHT...
MA'AM, YOU'VE BEEN WRITING LETTERS BACK HOME FOR THE SOLDIERS OR WRITING TO THEIR FAMILIES OF THEIR FINAL MOMENTS.
YE'VE BEEN SAYIN' THAT FOR THE PAST HOUR!

PLEASE, YE MUST, MISS NIGHTIN-GALE!
MA'AM, YOU MUST SLEEP.
HOW DO YOU EVER EXPECT TO COMPLETE ALL THIS?
AND THERE'S MORE... INVENTORY AND STORAGE LISTS, RECEIPTS, LETTERS OF THANKS, ALL MANNER OF RECORDS...

...HE DIDN'T
SHIT...
SCUT
HUH
...DONE
OH!
MISS NIGHT-IN-GALE!
SCUT
EVEN...
...IF I PRE-PAID
THOSE MEDICAL OFFICERS HAVE BEEN MAKING THINGS ROUGH FOR HER, AND ALL THAT STRESS MUST'VE WORN HER OUT!
IT'S COLD IN HERE, AND THIS ROOM HAS NO STOVE...
SCUT
...SHE'S SLEEPING
GREY...

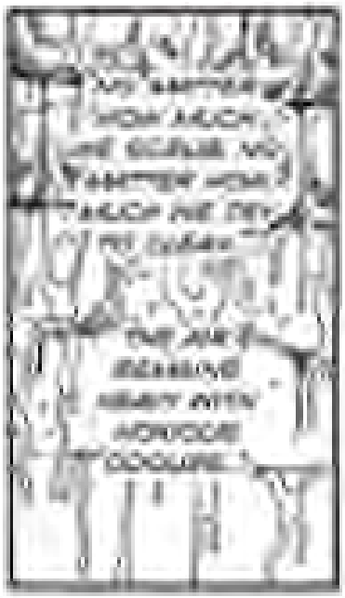

PLEASE! RELEASE THE CARGO FROM THAT SHIP!
HUH?! I DON'T CARE A DAMN!!
WITH THAT CARGO, WE CAN SAVE THE LOOO PATIENTS WHO HAVE BECOME!!
IT CONTAINS CAMPHOR AND LIMES!
THE DESTINATION OF THAT CARGO WAS OMITTED, SO WE DON'T HAVE PERMISSION TO BRING IT ASHORE. WE HAVE TO DISPOSE OF IT INTO THE SEA.
NO... THAT CAN'T BE THE REASON —
YOU'RE ARGUING THE LIVES OF ALL THOSE SOLDIERS WITH SCURVY?!

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER WANTS ORDERS!
NOOO! STOP! PLEASE!
SHIIIIT!
P P P P P P
P P P
I JUST... HAD A PINT... OF LIME JUICE...
FOR GIVE ME...

PEOPLE
DIE...
NO MATTER
WHAT I DO
SCURVY...
GANGRENE...
TETANUS...
DYSENTERY...
AND NOW A
BACK ACHE...
STARVE

THE
PAIN...
IT'S
COLD...
SO
COLD...
STARVE

DID
YOU
FEEL
THIS
COLD,
TOO
...?
OHH...
I'M SO
COLD,
GREX.


NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
WE SCRUB, NO
MATTER HOW
MUCH WE DIG
THE AIR IS
ALWAYS
HEAVY WITH
HORRIBLE
ODOURS

AND
PATIENTS DIE
I CAN NO
MORE STOP
IT THAN I CAN
HALT THE
RAIN

...I FELT SO...
...WARM.
YOU SAID THAT PEOPLE FEEL COLD IN THE PRESENCE OF GHOSTS... BUT THINKING ABOUT IT NOW, WHEN I WAS WITH YOU,
Oh...
SIS!
ナーア
アア

...SAY!
YOU COULDN'T
STAND ANYMORE
OUTSIDE THE
DRURY LANE
THEATRE!

...SO YOU
CONTINUED
TO SIT
INSIDE THAT
THEATRE...
...AND
WAITED FOR
THAT ACTRESS
TO COME ON
STAGE...
YOUR
HEART

SINCE YOU LEFT

DIDN'T YOU AGREE TO TAKE MY LIFE WHEN I SUCCUMB TO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR?
OR...

GREY...

Early
March
1855,
Scutari
Port

ZOOM

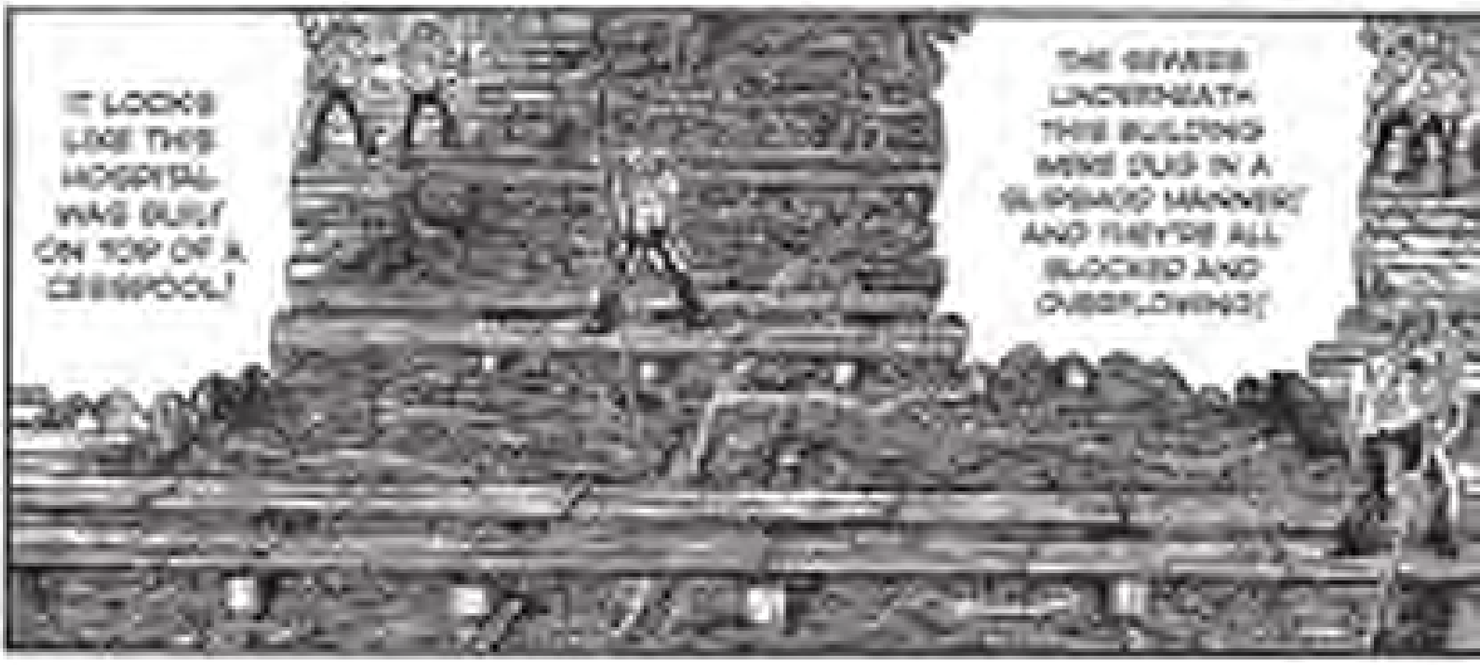
WE ARE THE SANITARY COMMISSION!
BY ORDER OF THE PRIME MINISTER, LORD PALMERSTON, AND IN THE NAME OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, WE ARE HERE TO INVESTIGATE THE HYGIENIC STANDARDS OF THESE FACILITIES!

OUR ORDERS ARE AS FOLLOWS!
THE LARGE DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN REPORTS PROVIDED BY THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT AND BY "OTHER PARTIES" HAVE CREATED CONFUSION IN ENGLAND!

"TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO REMEDY THE SITUATION. TAKE COMMAND AND COMMENCE WORK TO IMPLEMENT REFORMS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF YOUR ORDERS."
"TO BE DISPATCHED TO THE LOCATION IN QUESTION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND UPON ARRIVAL DETAILED REPORTS WILL BE SUPPRESSED TO ELIMINATE MISINFORMATION."
BRITAIN... FINALLY RESPONDED TO MY REQUESTS !!
OHH! OH MY! THIS IS IT! IT'S EVERYTHING I'VE HOPED FOR!
WELL, LET'S OPEN UP A FEW AREAS UNDER THE FLOOR-BOARDS. THERE'S SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS HERE AND...
WE'LL HAVE A LOOK INTO THEIR CONSTRUCTION.
THE PATIENTS IN BED 9 HEAR THOSE PIPES CONSTANTLY AND HAVE HORRIBLY ITCHING
Dr. John Sutherland, originally of the Board of Health... a team of labor and progress...
DRINKING CONTAMINATED AIR FLOWING INTO OUR HOSPITAL WARDS IS DUE TO IT PASSING THROUGH THE PIPES FROM THE SMARD LATRINES!

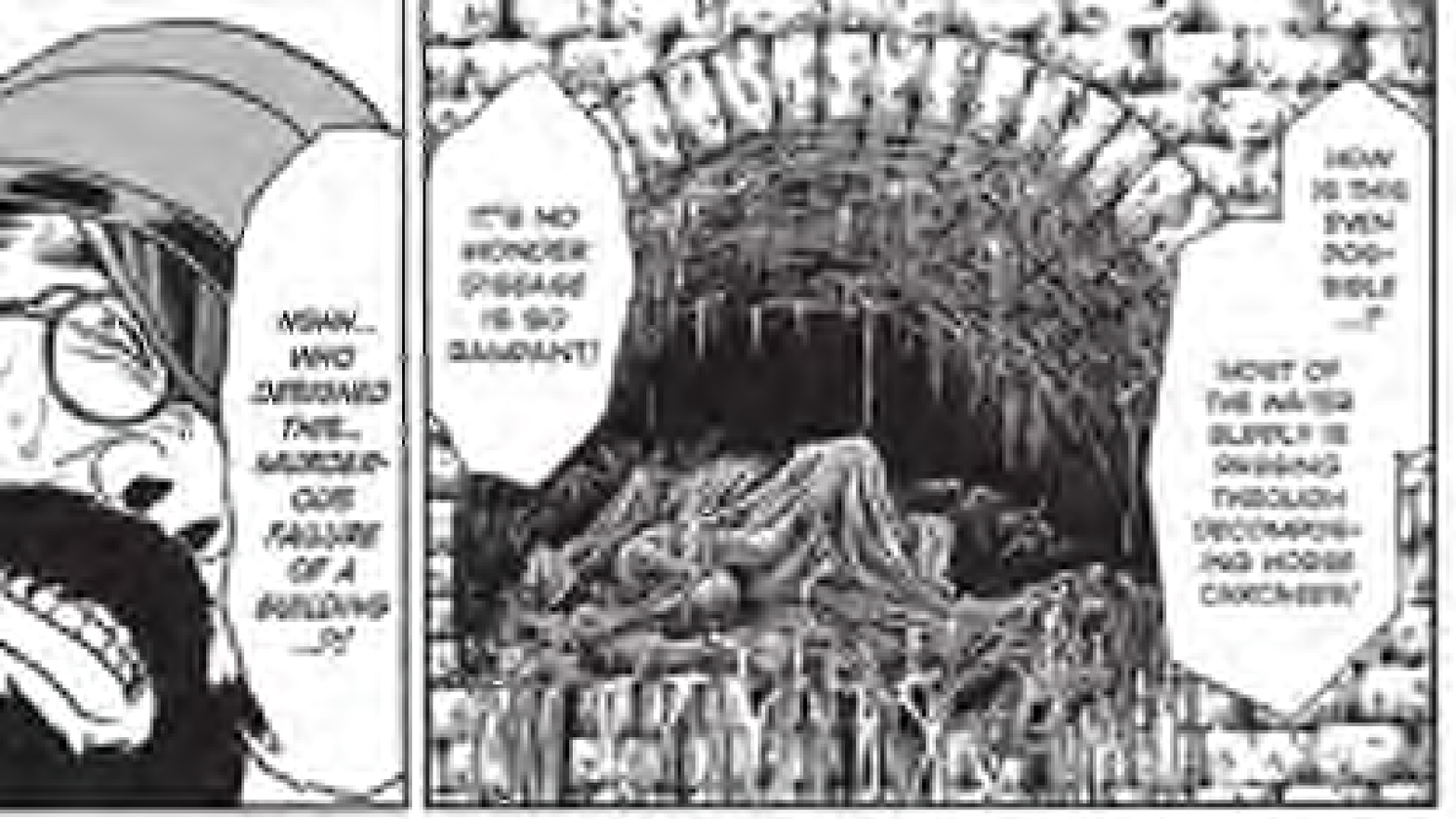
Here, sanitation issues have been from Liverpool, a city with a long history of sanitation control.
WE'LL DO A CHECK!
...WE ALSO SUSPECT CONTAMINATION OF THE POTABLE WATER
WHO'LL DO THAT...

AND AS A RESULT...


IT LOOKS LIKE THIS HOSPITAL WAS BUILT ON TOP OF A CESSPOOL!
THE SEWERS UNDERNEATH THIS BUILDING WERE DUG IN A SLIPSHOD MANNER AND THEY'RE ALL BLOCKED AND OVERFLOWING!

WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS?! THE TANK FOR CLEAN WATER IS NEXT TO THE DIARRHOEA PATIENTS' LATRINE?!

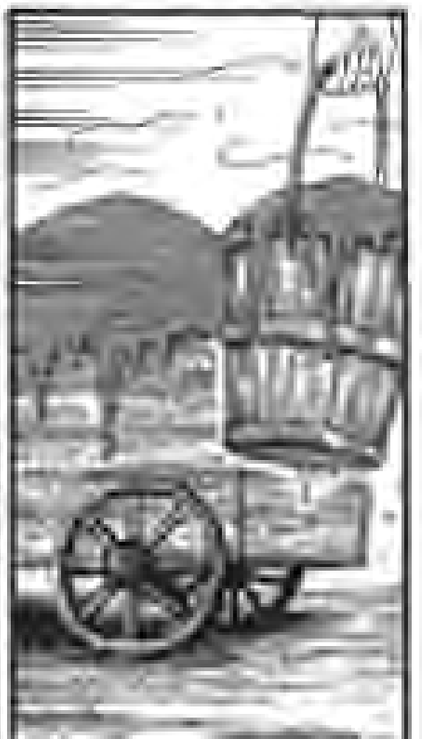
THESE PLASTER WALLS ARE SOAKING UP CONTAMINATED WATER AND SPREADING POISON INTO THE AIR...

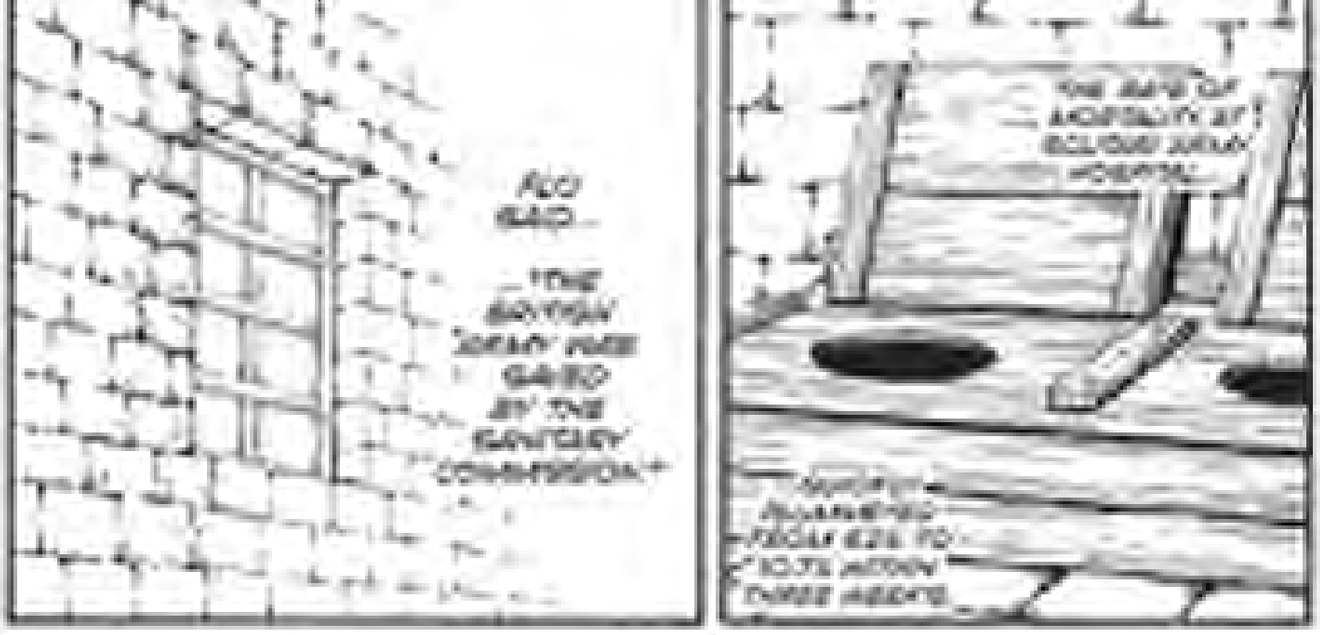

NOAH... WHO SUPERVISED THIS... MASSIVE-CUM FAILURE OF A BUILDING ...?
IT'S NO WONDER DISEASE IS SO RAMPANT!
HOW IS THIS EVEN POSSIBLE ...?
MOST OF THE WATER SUPPLY IS DRAINING THROUGH DECOMPOSING HOUSE CARCASSES!

DISINFECTION SQUAD! SCRUB THE WALLS WITH LIME! EXTERMINATE THE MICE AND VERMIN!
GET THE DRAINAGE DITCHES FLOWING!
WE CLEAN AT ONCE!

THE RENOVATIONS CONTINUED STRAIGHT FOR TWO WEEKS.

...AFTER THROWING OUT END LOADS OF REFUSE IN WHEELBARROWS AND BUCKETS, THE HOSPITAL WAS DISINFECTED.



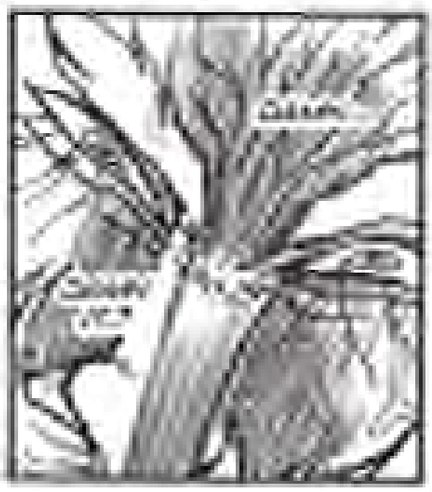


End of Chapter 18

OSTENSIBLY SO... IN TRUTH, THOUGH, FLORENCE'S RELENTLESS LETTER CAMPAIGN HAD WORN DOWN BRITAIN'S RESISTANCE...
"OOH- HEAVENS ALL YOUR SHOWING OF ROE AND HER ADVANT..." —HUGH AND ANNA HONAN
HOW LOV- OUS!
SO THE HOSPITAL AT SCUTARI SAW GREAT IMPROVE- MENTS THANKS TO THE SANITARY COMMISS- ION.
IT WAS THAT CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, DR. JOHN HALL, WASN'T IT?! HE DID NOTHING TO HELP THE SITUA- TION AND YET HE AL- WAYS REGARDS HER WITH ENMITY!
—GRR!
...AND THAT BROUGHT DISPLEA- SURE TO A CERTAIN FELLOW...
AND THAT'S WHY I HAVE BEEN IN THE WAY OF DR. HALL.
THAT'S WHY I HAD TO MAKE PRESENTA- TIONS...
HUH?
BUT I KNEW THAT HE AND DIXON WOULD STRIKE AGAIN.
THAT MAKES ME FURIOUS! ABSO- LUTELY FURIOUS!

AFTER AMASSING HIS ARMY WITHOUT ANGELS HELP AT THE BATTLE OF MARATHON, HE SHOUTED...
"ARMIES ARE ARMY BASED! THERE'S A WAR AT HOME AND ON THE BORDER!"
THE MAN WHO SAID THAT ARE MARTIAL-MINDED OF THE ORDINANCE. ATTACK SUMERIA! ETC MARCH AGAIN!
AAAA-AAA! ...I'VE RECEIVED THE REPORTS FROM THE SANITARY COMMISSION!
I... UH... THAT IS...
IGNORANT OF ALL THAT, YOU JUST LEFT YOUR SOLDIERS TO DIE...
...WAS BORNED THROUGH SOTTING WARS OR-CRIMES
YOUR HOSPITAL WAS BUILT ON TOP OF SHIT, AND THE WATER YOU GIVED YOUR SOLDIERS

Chapter 19
THE LADY ORTAGNS ACCOORLANDHEADS FOR CRIMEA



I'D HAD MY FILL OF LIFE ABROAD... I ASSUMED I'D QUIETLY LIVE OUT THE REST OF MY DAYS AT HOME, BUT...

AND WHAT DID THAT GET ME? DISPATCHED TO THIS GODFORSAKEN BATTLEFIELD! IT'S ALL SHIT.
IT SHOULD'VE WORKED WITHOUT ACCIDENT, SIR...
I ENTERED THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT AT 20, BUT WELL-TRAINED DOCTORS ARE A DIME A DOZEN AT 30.
I'VE NO INTEREST IN FLOURISHING NATIONS.
D'OH... IT'S THAT WOMAN'S FAULT... SHE'S DERAILED MY CAREER THROUGH THE MUD...
GRIND
NIGHTINGALE!
THAT MEDDLESOME HYPOCRITE OF A WOMAN!
OH!
KILL HER... NOW!

ABERDEEN'S ROYAL INFIRMARY IS THE LARGEST TEACHING HOSPITAL IN NORTH EAST SCOTLAND
THINGS WERE DIFFERENT AT ROYAL ARMY HOSPITAL

GOTTA LOVE LETTER FROM ME SWEET-HEART?
HEH, BEEN WAITING FER YA!
POSTMAN BOB, COMIN' THROUGH!

HEH HEH.
MR BRANLEY, YE USED TO BE QUENTY CANTAN-KEROUS, WEREN'T YE!

WELL, IT'D BE EMBARRASSIN' TO HAVE HER HEAR ME FOUL MOUTH...

BEFORE MRS NIGHTINGALE'S ARRIVAL THIS HOSPITAL RESOUNDED WITH VULGAR, WORD-FILLED SHOUTS. NOW THE WARDS ARE AS QUIET AS CAUKEN

WHEN I CAME 'ERE, I WAS SO COVERED IN SHIT AND CRAWLIN' WITH LICE...
...EVEN ME OWN MUM WOULDN'T'VE TOUCHED ME...
WHEN I WAS SCREAMIN' 'N CRYIN' IN PAIN... SHE HELD ME HAND ALL NIGHT LONG...
SHE DOES HER ROUNDS, QUIETLY PASSING THROUGH THE WARDS WITH A NOD HERE AND THERE. JUST SEEING HER DO WHAT SHE DOES LETS ME SLEEP PEACEFULLY...
I JUST CAN'T HAVE SOMEONE THAT NICE HEARIN' ANY BAD WORDS...
BUT SHE JOKED WITH ME WHILE SHE TOOK CARE OF ME...
COUNT YER BLOODY BLESSINGS!
IT'S THE TRUTH. I'VE NOTHIN' TO COMPLAIN ABOUT EXCEPT THOSE HALF-COOKED LUMPS OF MEAT THEY SERVE US FOR EVERY MEAL!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO MISS NIGHTINGALE!
I WONDER IF WE CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
ざわ ざわ
AND IT'S WORSE FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T. YOU CAN'T EVEN CALL IT FOOD...
...YER RIGHT ABOUT THAT. THAT FOOD'S ALREADY KAPUT FOR THE PATIENTS WHO CAN EAT.

HEAD NURSE! THE CAPTAIN OF THE INVENT TRANSPORT SHIP AND THE ROYAL ENGINEER ARE WAITING FOR YOU!
WE STILL OWE ON THE 50 STONES WE BOUGHT LAST MONTH...
WE'RE RUNNING SHORT ON SPLINTS AND BANDAGES!
THE PATIENTS IN ROOM 6B HAVE FINALLY RECOVERED FROM THE EPIDEMIC AND CAN EAT NOW. WHAT SHOULD WE GIVE THEM?"
56

BRING ME THE INVOICE.
I'LL COME IN 10 MINUTES.
HAVE MR. EVANS DIET BANDAGES.
ASSOW-SCOT ORDEAL HAS NO NUTRITION.
I'LL WRITE A RECIPE FOR A SOUP WITH MEAT IN IT.
YES...
YES...
SIGH

...THE "TOWER OF BABEL."
BUT, I HEAR THEY CALL MISS NIGHTINGALE'S QUARTERS...
BECAUSE WE CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT THE HIGH-COOKED MEAT...
BECAUSE RUSHES STRAIGHT TO MISS NIGHTINGALE AS SOON AS THEY HAVE A PROBLEM
IT'S NO USE!

BREAK TIME! GET OUT! GEEET OOOUT!
OH DEAR! BOB!
SQUEEZE

IN FACT, I PREFER TO KEEP WORKING.

YE G... GOTTA REST! YE'LL WEAR YERSELF OUT!

THANK YOU, BOB... BUT I'M FINE...

...EVER SINCE DEBBY LEFT, YE'VE BEEN WORKING YESSELF MORE AND MORE. MISS NIGHTIN-GALE...
HUH ?
...
ARRRR? HE GOT AND WHAT'S HE BEEN DOIN' ALL THIS TIME?
...HE HAS GHOSTLY MATTERS TO ATTEND TO...
WELL, I IMAGINE...
SOMEONE IMPORTANT FOR THE HOSPITAL WILL BE ARRIVING SOON.
HUH ?
NEVER MIND THAT, BOB. YOUR "BREAK TIME" HAS ACTUALLY BEEN QUITE THE HELP.
HASN'T IMPROVED ?
TELL ME. "WHAT STILL HASN'T IMPROVED AT THIS HOSPITAL?"
I HAVE A RIDDLE FOR YOU, BOB.
SOME-ONE IMPOR-TANT ?

...HEH HEH. DON'T YOU KNOW?
...UH... WELL... IS IT THE TERRIBLE TASTE MEAT...?
REALLY?!
WE NEED TO TAILOR MEALS TO THE PATIENT'S STATE OF HEALTH.
...THE FOOD ENOUGH FOR THOSE WHO CAN EAT BUT THOSE ARE ALSO PATIENTS WITH WEAK DIGESTIVE SYSTEMS THAT CAN'T HANDLE THIS FOOD...
CURRENTLY, THE MEALS ARE VERY LIMITED AS SOLDIERS WITH NO COOKING EXPERIENCE...
A COOKING EXPERT?!
I ASKED HIM TO SEND FOR A COOKING EXPERT.
THAT IS WHY I SENT A REQUEST TO LORD RANALISE.
HOW DARE YOU?!
SLAM
WHAT IS IT--?
HEH HEH! THE KITCHEN!

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT OUR COOKING, PRETTY BOY?!
UH, COOKING?

STARE
CAN YOU SEE EVIL? IT GRANTS ME TOTAL AUTOMATIC OVER IT KITCHEN!
IT COOKING IT NOT BOILING IT MEAT AND SERVING IT AIT IT DEED BEANS LIKE YOU DO, MEN AHH
UH...
YOU DAMN FROG EATER!

TOTAL AUTH-ORITY ...?
I AM ALEXIS GOYER.
AND ZIS IZ MON SECRETARY MONSIEUR BLACK.
I AM ZERE TO PROVIDE ZE PATIENTS WIT MEALS ZAT ARE NUTRITIOUS AND TASTY TO CONSUME!

OUI! YOU KNOW WELL! BUT I HAVE HAD MY FILL OF ZE GOURMET FOOD!

CHEF OF CUISINE OF LONDON'S REFORM CLUB*! A REAL FIRST-RATE CHEF!
GOYER... DO YOU MEAN THAT GOYER ...?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF ZIS FOOD ONLY FOR LOOKING! NOW I WILL HAVE BEAUCOUP OF ZE FOOD ZAT IZ NUTRITIOUS AND REASONABLE!

HOW I'VE LONGED TO MEET YOU!
OH!! YOU ARE ZE RENOWNED 'LADY WITH THE LAMP,' MADEMOISELLE NIGHTINGALE!
W-WE CAN'T DO THAT SORT OF COOKING!

UGGLE

AHH... LET ME DOWN... TOO HIGH!

DON'T YE GET TOO FAMILIAR WIT HER! I'M HER NUMBER ONE GUY AND YE GOTTA GO THROUGH ME FIRST...

YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS ZE SOLDIERS WIT ZE MOST COOKING EXPERIENCE AMONG ZE KITCHEN STAFF.
YOU WILL NO LONGER BE TAUGHT ZE FLAMBE! NOW YOU ARE ALL CHEFS IN EMERGENCY!

ホゥホゥホゥ!
I WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO COOK ZE INEXPENSIVE AND DELICIOUS MEALS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... WE COULDN'T DO IT, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY GOING TO IMPROVE THE MEALS HERE...

DELI-
CIOUS!
おいしおー
おいしおー!!

AND SINCE YOU'VE RECOVERED, WE CAN ALSO GIVE YOU SOMETHING MORE SUBSTANTIAL.
WE STILL HAVE SOUP TOO.
THIS IS AMAZING! WHO KNEW THERE COULD BE SUCH DELICIOUS THINGS IN THIS WORLD?!
BRIAC! OH, HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN—

...THEY'D NEVER HAVE TO BE SERVED MUSH AGAIN...

...AND BOWEL MOVEMENTS LIKE YOU...

TH-THANK YOU...

AHHH... I CAN EAT... WITH THIS, I CAN EAT...

HE CRAFTED RECIPES FOR DELICIOUS SOUPS AND STEWS TO FEED THE SOLDIERS.

HE EVEN DEVISED A NEW TYPE OF OVEN AND THE SOLDIERS BEGAN PUTTING THEM INTO PRACTICAL USE AT THE HOSPITAL.

THIS ECCENTRIC CHEF...

...ABOLISHED THE MOUNTAIN OF BAD HABITS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...

...AND PUSHED FORWARD TO IMPROVE EVERY SINGLE MEAL.

FROM A JAPAN IN FEUDAL NOSTALGIA TO EARLY MODERN

YOU'RE THE FIRST TIME AT THE SOLDIER ARMY HOSPITAL. THERE IS ENOUGH WE NOW CONCENTRATE ON HEALING THE SICK.

SO...

THEN FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE...

...SO YOU WANT NO REGRETS TO BE LEFT...
THE DESIRE THAT YOU EXPECTED FROM ME WILL NOT HAPPEN...
I WILL CHARGE DIRECTLY DOWN THE PATH OF MY CHOOSING...

End of Chapter 19

AYE... SINCE THE HOSPITAL IN SCUTARI WAS IN GOOD SHAPE THANKS TO THE SANITARY COMMISSION...
CRIMEAN PENINSULA
BLACK SEA
SO MISS NIGHTINGALE-HEADED TOWARDS THE FRONT AT THE CRIMEAN PENINSULA?

IN ANY CASE, THE FRONT LINE WAS NEARBY IN BALACLAVA.
SHE WILL... ALTHOUGH I WOULD'VE PREFERRED THAT SHE JUST SUCCUMB TO HER DISEASE...
SHE WAS GOING TO INSPECT THE HOSPITAL IN BALACLAVA, WASN'T SHE?

ARE GREY WOLF NAPPENED TO MISS NIGHTINGALE?
I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WOULD GO WELL...
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
THAT'S WHY SHE SAW SUCH HELL THERE...

FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO IS NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE, THIS SWORD SYMBOLIZES FAITH ITSELF.
NOTHING HAS GIVEN ME MORE THAN THIS SWORD HAS.
A SWORD STEALS...
A SWORD FIGHTS.
Chapter 20
THE GHOST STRIKES A BLOW AND THE LADY IS DEEPLY WOUNDED

THIS SWORD WOULD NOT LEAVE MY HANDS UNTIL MY DEATH AT THE AGE OF 64

AND EVEN AS I BECAME DAUGHT IN MY OLDER AGE THIS SWORD HAS ALWAYS WITH ME
LONG AGO, I WAS BROUGHT ONE FRENCH HEIRLOOM SWORD STITCHED IN ENGLAND

EVEN THAT QUESTION HAS BROKEN TO BECOME DISTANT AND HAZY
AND DO I BECOME THE GHOST THAT I AM...?

OH... I WISH I COULD KILL HIM!...
DUELLING... OH, HOW I LOVE YOU SO...

MY COMMON SENSE! AGREE WITH MY DESIRE.
IN ANY CASE, JOHN WILL FOLD ME TO HIS NIGHTINGALE
I DON'T THINK THERE MAY BE ANY DESPAIR, EVEN IF I AM NOT DESPAIR OF IT...

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF DESPAIR WILL COME INTO HER EYES WHEN I KILL HER.
SO, I KILL HER.

I WILL KILL YOU ON THIS VERY DAY, MADEMOISELLE NIGHTINGALE!

AND AFTER COMPLETING THE INSPECTION OF THE HOSPITAL, OUR PARTY MADE THEIR WAY TO BALAKLAVA.
ON THAT DAY, MISS NIGHTINGALE FINALLY DISEMBARKED UPON CRIMEAN SOIL.
REPORTING FOR THE TIMES, WILLIAM HOWARD RUSSELL

WHAT'RE YE SAYIN'? MY LIFE IS DEVOTED TO MISS NIGHTIN-GALE!
HA HA HA! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY WITH US!
OH NO, BOB. I'M QUITE FINE.
MISS NIGHTINGALE, YER NOT SICK?

NO SURPRISE THERE.
LIKE SOUTHAMPTON BEFORE MISS NIGHTINGALE ARRIVED, EH?
YES. MR. BOYER, THE ENTIRE FACILITY WAS DIRTY AND THE MANAGEMENT WAS INCOMPETENT.
THE NURSES WERE NOT PROPERLY TRAINED EITHER.
BUT IN HOSPITAL WE SAW TODAY, IT WAS HORRIBLE, NO?
BUT WHAT REALLY ANNOYED ME WAS THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS HER AT THE HOSPITAL.
...WE WISH TO HAVE HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN COME HERE.
WE FIND YOUR PRESENCE HERE INADEQUATE. BUT IF POSSIBLE —
HUH!? WHAT D'YA MEAN?
WELL, SOR, THIS PLACE IS OUT OF MISS NIGHTINGALE'S JURISDICTION, SO IT'S NO WONDER THEY RESENT HER INTRUSION.
RIGHT, BOYER! I'D LIKE TO GIVE THAT OL' ELIZABETH A GOOD KICK!
ZAT IS BAD. NOT ZEY MAKE ZE RACIST REMARKS TO HER...

MADEMOISELLE NIGHTINGALE'S LETTER OF APPOINTMENT: IT NAMES HER AS "SUPERINTENDENT OF THE FEMALE NURSING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENGLISH GENERAL HOSPITALS IN TURKEY."
WE'RE ON THE CRIMEAN PENINSULA, SIR! THAT'S NOT TURKISH TERRITORY.
S-SIR... THOSE PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO BE MADE TO DO ANYTHING P
THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ORDERS...
THE AUTHORITIES HERE STILL SEEM TO BE PREVENTING THE SANITARY COMMISSION FROM DOING THEIR INSPECTIONS...
ARRGH! NOW! ALL A'M KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON! AM I THE ONLY ONE WITOUT A CLUE!?
HELP ひぃ!!
OH, PARDON ME.
O! DON'T THINK YE CAN CALM ME DOWN BY PUTTING ME UP HERE!
OH MY, MOM! IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE A BOY HERE!
YE TOO, MISS NIGHTINGALE—!?
OH, SIR—THEN—

BUT
AH... WHAT? MISS NIGHTINGALE YOU WHY?!
IT'S MISS NIGHTINGALE! MISS NIGHTINGALE'S HERE!
AGE YE ...!
WAIT...

DUMP
MISS NIGHTINGALE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'D COME ALL THE WAY OUT TO THIS BATTLEFIELD!

SHE'S THE ONLY PERSON THAT DIDN'T TREAT US LIKE UNEDUCATED RUBBISH...
I OWE MY LIFE TO HER!
I WAS IN SCUTARI HOSPITAL BEFORE!

I COULDN'T LET MYSELF DIE WITHOUT CATCHING A GLIMPSE OF YOU!
OUR ANGEL!
WHOA!
THERE'S ABOVE A HUNDRED SOLDIERS COMIN'!

IT IS ALSO YOUR DUTY TO ACCEPT ITS GRATITUDE.
I... I'M NOT USED TO THIS...

NOW... MADEMOISELLE. YOUR HAND...

HUH?
HAVE A SEAT. SIT. YOU'RE TIRED.

BEHOLD ZIS GENTLE LADY SITTING FIRMLY ON ZIS FEARSOME WEAPON!

ZE SOLDIER'S FRIEND, MISS NIGHTIN-GALE!
SHE IS ZE HEROINE BORN OF ENGLAND!

COMMAND US AND WE'LL FIGHT FOR YOU!!
MISS NIGHT-INGALE !!

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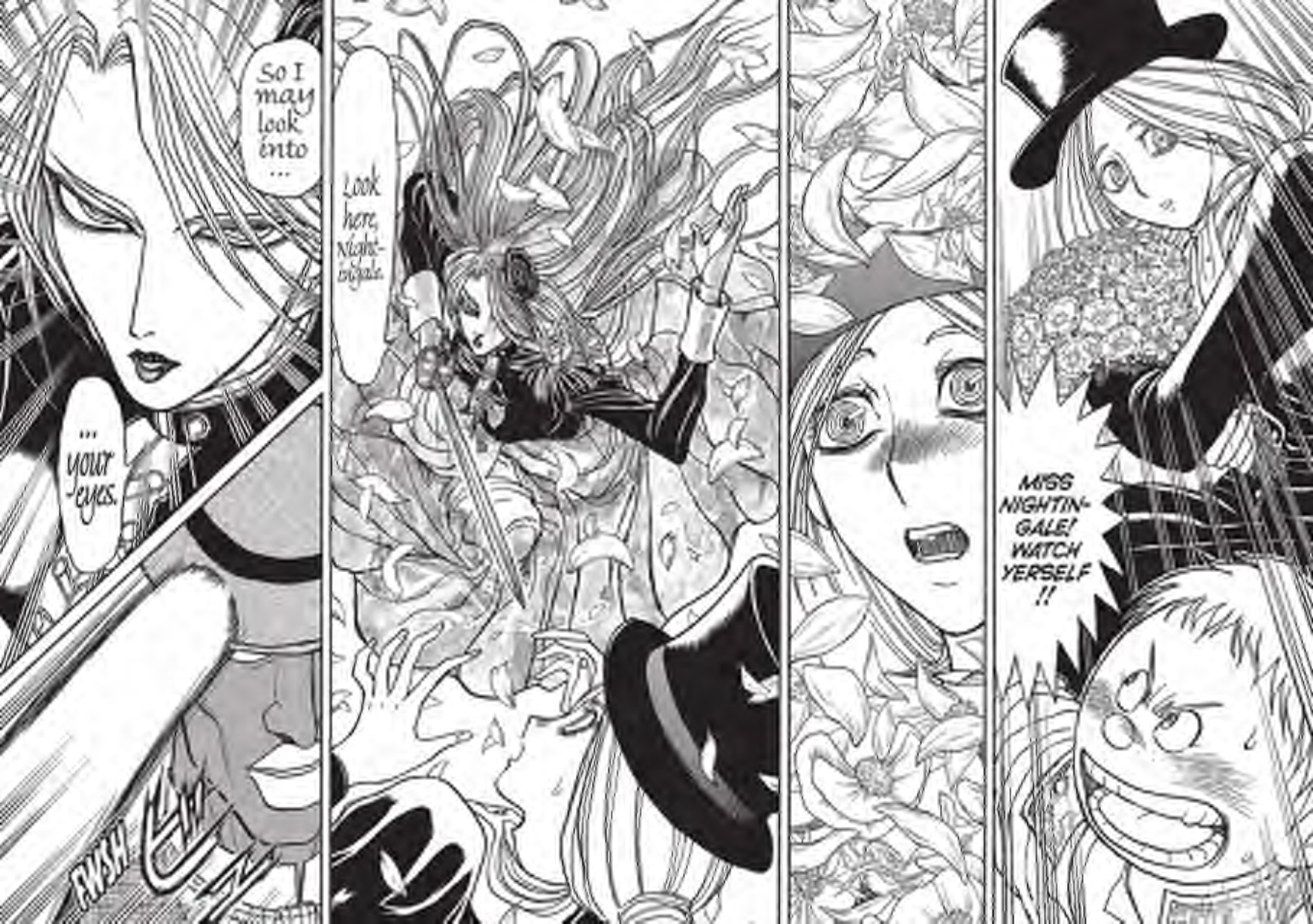
So I may look into ...
... your eyes.
SWISH
Look here, Nightingale.
MISS NIGHTINGALE! WATCH YERSELF !!

ZA-
ISH

I KNEW YOU WOULD COME FOR HER...
SO I HID AND WAITED INSIDE A HUMAN VESSEL, KNOWING YOU'D BE UNABLE TO SENSE MY PRESENCE.
GRRH... YOUUU...
GREY
...
GREY...
BUT YOU COULDN'T DEFEAT ME IN ONE BLOW.
YES... I LET MY GUARD DOWN...
GU
GU
GU
FLO
DU
DUB

ZHLIK
KA-
CHK

...DEFEAT YOU, YOU NOISY LITTLE BUG!
THANKS TO THAT, I CAN AT LEAST...

BLAM

End of Chapter 20

IT WAS... THE WORST POSSIBLE MISCALCULATION : COULD'VE MADE...
A NURSE IS NO PASTOR. THEY ONLY NEED TO BOTHER WITH THE LIVING...

IT ALLOWED ME TO LIE IN WAITING ...
...UNTIL THAT BASTARD ATTACKED FLO...

TO EVADE D'EON'S DETEC-TION ...
...I'D HIDDEN MYSELF IN BOYER'S SECRE-TARY.

I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE IT... WHAT LIVING BEING WOULD SACRIFICE HERSELF TO SHIELD A GHOST?

FIRST I LOPPED OFF THE ARM THAT HELD D'EON'S SWORD.

BUT I WAS TOO SLOW TO TAKE THAT VILLAIN'S HEAD...

Chapter 21
THE GHOST NURSES, THE LADY

...YOU CAME BACK...
I'M SO GLAD ...

P... PLO... Y- YOU ...!

MISS NIGHTINGALE?!
WHAT HAPPENED?
I THOUGHT I SAW HER STUMBLE AND THEN SHE JUST...!
NOO! MISS NIGHTINGALE, SHE'S COLLAPSED!
I KNEW YE WERE IN MR. BLACK! WHY DIDN'T YE PROTECT HER?!
WHAT'RE YE EVEN HERE FOR?!
WHAT ARE THEY DEFY?!

BOIL WHO ARE YOU TELLING AIT' HOLD HIS HAT FOR ME
I WILL
EE-JIT!

I NEVER THOUGHT...
...THAT ALO WOULD PROTECT ME

I...

WHY WOULD SHE THROW HER LIFE AWAY?
SO MANY

I STAND BY HER SIDE

SPICE CHARACTERS ALLAH KHAAD RUSSEL MATAFAN AU NA MAS

AND AFTER THE NEWS REACHED ECOSSE...
ALL SOLDIERS AT BALACLAVA APPEARED TO BE IN MOURNING
ALL THEIR TRUST HAD IN ROMANCE NIGHTINGALE
...THE WOUNDED THEIR TURNED THEIR FACES TO THE WALLS AND CRIED.
NOW SHE HAD NOW BECOME ENGLAND'S HEROINE...
EVEN THE PEOPLE OF LONDON WERE WORRIED ABOUT HER NIGHTINGALE'S CONDITION...

AS ALWAYS, A JOB WELL DONE. O'BAN OF BRAUNAGH.
...IS THAT SO? THEN IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE NIGHT-WRAITH DIES.

AND WORST OF ALL, I FOUND MYSELF FEELING THAT UNCOUTH "FRIEND"...

...DRIED OUT MY ARMS AND NECK...

HA! HA! HA! IT'S NO MATTER. IS IT? THE RESULT'S THE SAME!
HAH... WHAT I'M SAYING IS, IF THIS WERE A DUEL BETWEEN LIVING BEINGS...

GREY... YOU WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN ...
I DIED UN-DEFEATED ...

...I WOULD HAVE LOST.

THERE, SHE ADVISED BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH FOR OVER TWO WEEKS.
FLO LAY IN THE CASTLE HOSPITAL AT AGANTUVIA.

BUT IN HER STATE, IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
MINE MONTH-OLD... YOU HAVE TO PUSH THROUGH TONIGHT OR ELSE...

BYE, HOLLY.
COME, BOB. WE LET HER SLEEP TONIGHT.
NO ONE KNOWS THE CAUSE. AND SHE JUST KEEPS GETTING WEAKER...
IT'S A STRANGE ILLNESS... THEY CALL IT CRIMSON FEVER...
SLAM
PLEASE GET BETTER...
MISS NIGHTINGALE... PLEASE...

...AS I WAS SITTING IN ROW D OF THE UPPER CIRCLE AT THE THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE, YOU SAID TO ME...
EXCUSE ME...
INSTEAD, EACH TRIAL ONLY SERVES TO STRENGTHEN YOU...
IT'S QUITE WEIRD, BUT YOUR PERFORMANCE HAS ALSO BECOME RATHER CAPTIVATING, YOU KNOW...
...YOU JUST MIGHT DESERVE WILL YOU...
BUT DESPITE ALL YOUR TRIALS...
"PLEASE TAKE MY LIFE."
...WOULD POSSIBLY HAVE BE A PERSONAGE IN THE GREATEST OF ALL TRAGEDIES. I ACCEPTED YOUR REQUEST.
AND THROUGH THAT, FOUND YOU WHEN YOU WERE TRUE DESPAIR.

...you came back...
Grey... I'm... so glad...

TCK...

HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING TO SLEEP?
HEY, R.O...

THEN I'LL TAKE YOUR LIFE...
WAKE UP ALREADY AND SHOW ME YOUR DESIGNS!
YOU'VE MUCH TO DO. HAVEN'T YOU? ANIMATION, YOU.

I'M THE ONE TO KILL YOU!
I WON'T LET THAT BASTARD O'BRIEN TOUCH YOU AGAIN...
SO COME NOW...
...I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE THEN —
BLOOD

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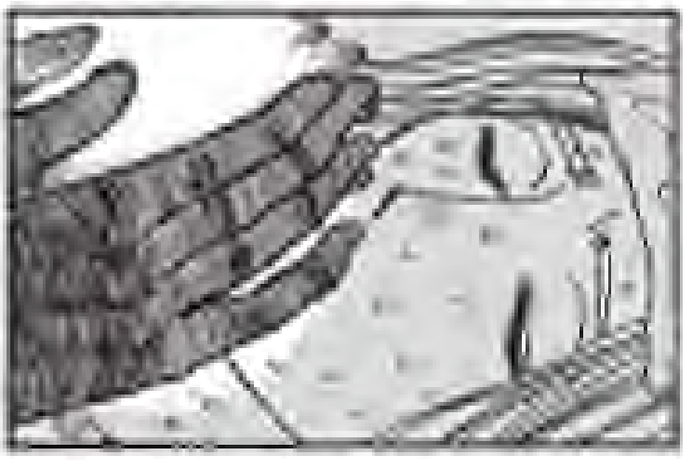
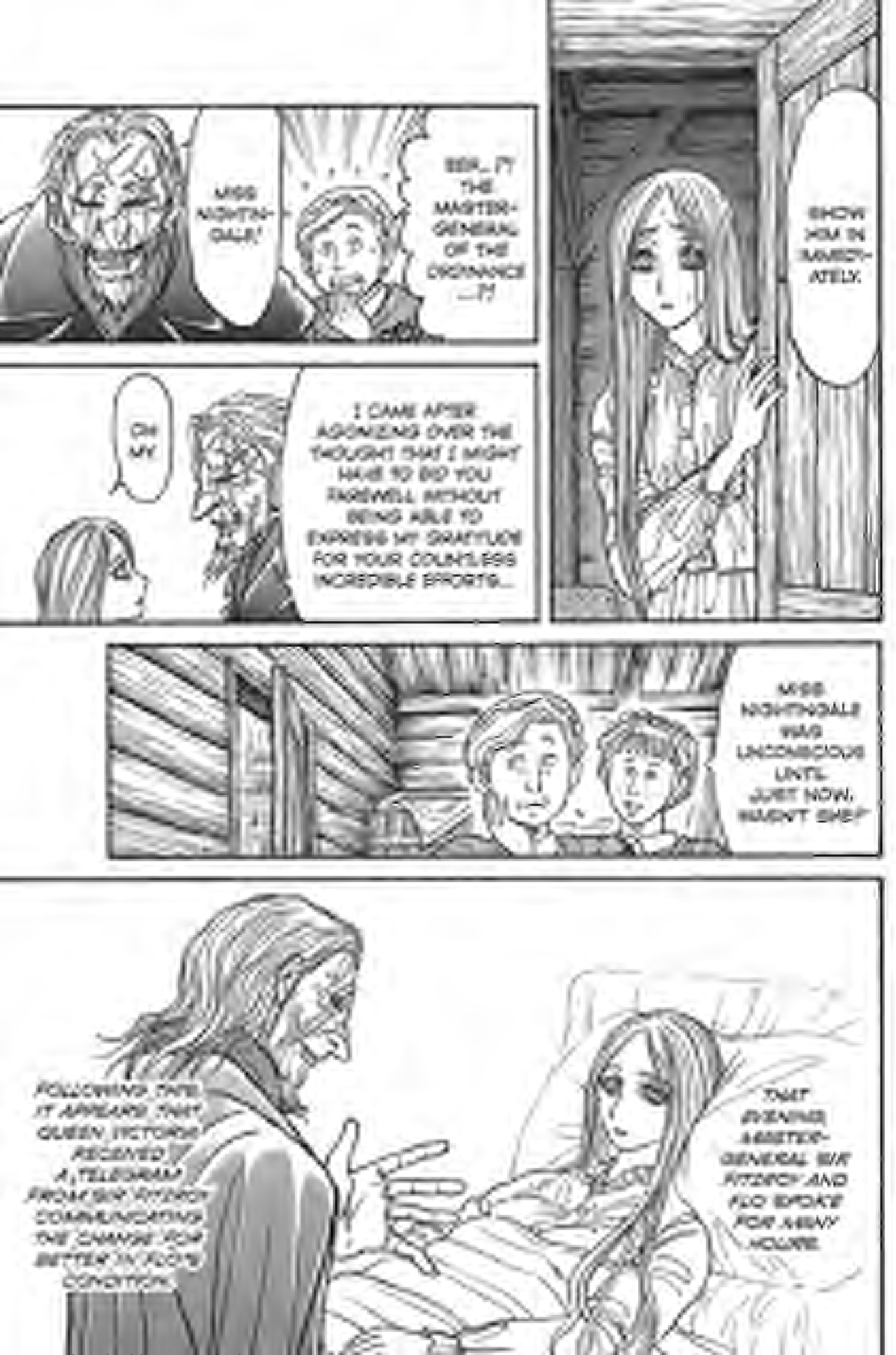


IF I GIVE YOU SOME DISTANCE —
...IT SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN HEALING THE DAMAGE YOU RECEIVED FROM STRONG PISTOL...

...YOU CAN'T DIE...
UNTIL I KILL YOU...
FWOOO

GRIP
HALL... O'BEAN... THEY'LL BE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR LIFE...
I FEEL A BIT WEAK...
AS EX-PECTED...
ZA...
BUT... WHEN NEXT WE MEET...
"...THIS MY HAND WILL RATHER THE MULTITUDINOUS SEAS INCARNADINE, MAKING THE GREEN ONE RED."

WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
SHHH! NOT SO LOUD!
MAY... I HAVE YOUR NAME ...?!
Y- YES.
MY APOLOGIES. IS THIS MISS NIGHTINGALE'S CABIN?
MRS. ROBERTS! THAT'S THE BARON BASILAN!
SHE CANNOT EVEN SPEAK ...
YES... BUT MISS NIGHTINGALE IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION...
I BELIEVE SHE KNOWS ME...
JUST A SIMPLE SOLDIER. BUT I MUST MEET THE LADY...


SHOW YOU IN IMMEDIATELY.
MISS NIGHTINGALE!
SIR... IT THE MASTER-GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE —!?
OH MY
I CAME AFTER AGONIZING OVER THE THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT HAVE TO BID YOU FAREWELL WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR COUNTLESS INCREDIBLE EFFORTS...
MISS NIGHTINGALE WAS UNCONSCIOUS UNTIL JUST NOW, WASN'T SHE?
FOLLOWING DATE IT APPEARS THAT QUEEN VICTORIA RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM SIR RYDER COMMUNICATING THE CHANGE NOW BETTER IN FLO'S CONDITION.
THAT EVENING MASTER-GENERAL SIR RYDER AND FLO SPOKE FOR MANY HOURS

SHE FOUND HERSELF SURROUNDED FROM BIRTH AND BAR INFECTIONS...
...FLOYD HEALTH GRADUALLY RETURNED BUT THE FLOG OF HOPE SHE CAME BACK TO WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CAUSE HARM AT HER WELL-BEING
THEN, AFTER THE PASSAGE OF MANY MONTHS...

...AND FOR SOLDIERS WHO WISHED TO SEND THEIR PAYCHECK TO THEIR FAMILIES, SHE CREATED A POST OFFICE THAT HANDLED THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AND PARCELS.

AND YET, FOR THE SOLDIERS WHO COULD NOT BE DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL TO CARE, SHE OPENED A READING ROOM...

SHE ALSO CREATED A CHORUS GROUP AND CONSTRUCTED A PLAYHOUSE
EVERY FACILITY WAS KEPT IN GOOD ORDER AS WELL.

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS, SHE ESTABLISHED FOUR SCHOOLS.

...CAME TO BE THROUGH THE PERSONAL EFFORTS OF ONE REMARKABLE WOMAN.
THIS ALL...

BUT THIS HAVEN HAD NOW ALMOST COMPLETELY CHANGED AND WOULD NEVER RETURN.
MANY THOUGHT TO BE HIS/HER DISCHARGE APPROACHED.
IN THIS REGARD, BRITISH SOLDIERS...

THEN, ON THE EVE OF MARCH 1854, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE RECEIVED A LETTER.
IT WAS AN INTERVIEW FROM CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER JOHN HALL EXPLAINING WITH RHETORICAL FLOURISHES

*A military unit consisting of transport and supply personnel.

IGNORE IT. PUT IT NO MORE!
IT'S OBVIOUSLY A TRAP... HE INTENDS TO ENACT SOME AGREEABLE SCHEME AFTER LURING YOU TO THE CRIMEA! PERHAPS ILL, WHERE YOU HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE...

"I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REQUEST YOUR INSTRUCTION IN YOUR METHODS OF NURSING FOR OUR LAND TRANSPORT CORPS*!...
"I ALSO REQUEST YOU TO RECOMMEND THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF TEN NURSES*!...
HMPH.

I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME...
...THAT I SPEAK WITH JOHN KILL.

AS PART OF THE TREATMENT FOR HER POWERS, SHE'S HAD HER HAIR CUT SHORT AND HER LOOK IS STRANGELY CHILDLIKE AND INNOCENT.

YOU SEE HIS TRUE COLOURS, DON'T YOU?
HEH HEH. ALSO —
YOU CAN'T JUST GO BARGING INTO ENEMY TERRITORY LIKE THAT!
KNOCK THAT BASTARD'S HEADING TO KILL YOU!

...I HAVE YOU TO PROTECT ME AGAIN.
THESE WEEKS APART, A PEACE TREATY WOULD BE SIGNED IN PARIS, ENDING THE CRIMEAN WAR.
NOW WE'VE GIVEN OUR WORD OF WAR WILL SOON BE COMING TO AN END AS WELL.
End of Chapter 231

AND LINING THE WALLS HERE IS A DISPLAY OF LETHAL WEAPONS USED IN CRIME...
THOSE ARE DEATH MASKS TAKEN FROM THE CORPSES OF ALL MANNER OF NOTORIOUS MURDER-ERS.

AYE... I'VE JUST ARRIVED TODAY...
...BUT THIS PLACE ALREADY FEELS FAMILIAR TO ME.
HEH HEH... YOU'RE QUITE KNOW-LEDGE-ABLE...

I DO PROMISE TO TELL YOU THESE TALES.
NOW!... THE RESULT OF TWO BULLETS MEETING IN MID-AIR.
...WE'LL FINALLY BE COMING TO THE ORIGIN OF THE COLLIDED BULLETS.
SO THAT MEANS —
BUT SOON OUR CONVERSATION WILL COME TO AN END.
OH MY...

AYE. I'M AWARE.
THIS "BLACK MUSEUM" HOUSES ITEMS RELATED TO CRIMINAL CASES COMMITTED WITHIN GREAT BRITAIN.
YOU DID. AND I CAN MOVE THEM FROM THIS EXHIBITION CORNER DEPENDING ON WHAT YOU TELL ME.
HUH...? MOVE THEM?
THESE COLLODIO BULLETS ARE ITEMS LEFT BY A GHOST THAT APPEARED IN A THEATER...
BEING THAT THEY ARE RELATED TO SOME OBSCURE ENTITY LIKE A GHOST AND MAY NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH A CRIME...
...IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO KEEP IT IN THIS MUSEUM.
OH, GEORGE! WHO?
UM... PLEASE DO CONTINUE YOUR TALE OF THE "COLLODIO BULLETS"...
EH...
BUT YOUR STORY WILL MAKE THINGS CLEAR...
OH DEAR... HAVE I SAID SOMETHING ELSE?
THAT'S WHY MY NICKNAME FOR THIS CORNER IS THE "THIS IS PROBABLY HUMBUG BUT WE'LL JUST STICK IT HERE FOR THE TIME BEING" SHELF.

chapter 22
THE GHOST AND THE LADY'S FINAL STORY
—THE OMEN—

...ARRIVED IN BALAKLAVA ON THE CRIMEAN PENINSULA
THE EARLY PART OF MARCH 1856. AMIDST A SNOW-STORM, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AND HER PARTY...

SHE HAD ALREADY BECOME A FORMAL WELCOME FROM MISTER-GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE, SIR JOSEPH (THE FORMER MISTER-GENERAL THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD PAYED FOR THE VISIT TO HER).
...SHE CAME TO ASSIST WITH NURSING AT THE HOSPITAL FOR THE LAND TRANSPORT CORPS
AT CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER VOHN WILL'S INVITATION...

I'M SURPRISED HE CAN WRITE IN THIS FREEZING WEATHER...
...ARRIVAL THE WIFE OF THE ARMY'S PAYMASTER GENERAL HERSELF AT HIS...
OUR PARTY CONSISTS OF TEN SKILLED NURSES...

OF COURSE! I'M MISS NIGHT-INGALE'S RIGHT-HAND MAN, YE KNOW!
AND BOIL I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY
IF I DON'T WRITE IT DOWN I'LL FORGET EVERY-THING...
...POOR ROBINSON HAS BUT TWO MEN DEVOTED ARE LIFE TO ARE MISTRESS...
BA-DUM
NOT LIKE I EVER KNEW HOW TO WRITE IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...THE SERVICE DOCK, ALFRED WYER AND HIS SECRETARY MR. BLACK.
I'M NOT DONE WITH COLD FACTS.
I DO!
DO YOU NOT WANT TO HURRY AND WARM YOURSELF AT ONE OF MY STOVES AND HAVE A BOWL OF LE POTAGE SPECIAL A LA SOYER?
OH, BOIL, BUT YOU MUST BE COLD, NOT?
ARE YOU SURE?
YES, I AM GOLD
WHAT
UH...
...BUT MISS NIGHTINGALE JUST RECOVERED FROM BEING SICK... I HOPE SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

SO I CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO FEEL COLD
BUT I'VE COME TO MEET SIR JOHN HALL

IN JANUARY THE GOVERNMENT RECEIVED THE FINAL REPORT CONCERNING FAILURES OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA CONDUCTED BY THE MCNEILL-TYDDYN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

BUT WE WERE ALSO AWARE OF THE MANY UNFORTUNATE THINGS THAT HAD OCCURRED BEFORE COMING HERE.
WE ALL KNEW WHAT WE WERE GOING

THE ROOT OF ALL THE EVENTS TO FOLLOW LAY IN THE ANGER & SHAME ARISING OUT OF THE WORSE THAN USELESS RESULT OF THE ABSENCE OF THE PURCHASE AND CONSEQUENT LATER CASH ARMY SYSTEM

BUT AFTER WE'D NEGOTIATED RENT

SHE HAD HER OWN APART AND THERE AND

DEEPLY CONFIRMED
OF THE
HEROISM
OF MISS
NIGHTINGALE'S
REPORTS
AS THE
RESULTS
OF THE
COMMISSION'S
ENQUIRY

HE DENOUNCED
HER AS A
NUISANCE AND
INTERFERED WITH
THE PROPER
OPERATION OF
THE HOSPITAL
BUT ALL AND HIS
MEN WOULD AGREE
NO ERROR AND
INSTEAD CHOSE TO
LAY THE BLAME ON
MISS NIGHTINGALE

AND DUE TO
THE INFLUENCE
OF HIS
CONNEXIONS

MEN SAW
THIS AS AN
ABSOLUTE
VICTORY
FOR MISS
NIGHTINGALE
AND ALL AND
THE SUPERIOR
OFFICERS UNDER
HIS COMMAND
WERE SHOWN TO
BE INCOMPETENT
AND NEGLECTFUL
OF THEIR DUTIES

THE MAN
RESPONSIBLE
FOR IT ALL
BECOMES
A KNIGHT
THIS AIN'T
NO BLOODY
WORLD
UNBELIEVABLE!
IT'S HIS FAULT
HEAPS A
SOLDIERS
DIED WITOUT
BLANKETS OR
MEDICINE!

KOH...
KNIGHT OF THE CRIMEAN BURIAL GROUND. MORE LIKE IT!

I'LL NEVER FORGET THOSE SOLDIERS' FACES...
THEY DIED FROM MISERY DUE TO HIS ORDERS TO DISCARD THE SHIPMENT OF CABBAGE AND LIMES...

WHAM!

BUT THE MOST MEMORABLE THING OF ALL WAS...

TURKEY! JUST TURKEY!! THE CRIMEAN PENINSULA IS OUTSIDE OF HER JURISDICTION! SHE HAS NO AUTHORITY HERE! DO NOT LET HER IN !!
NIGHTINGALE IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE FEMALE NURSING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENGLISH GENERAL HOSPITALS IN TURKEY!!

WE DON'T NEED NEGOTIATE AND HER AGENTS IT
MY AGENTS WERE APPOINTED BY A DIFFERENT ROUTE.
AND THEIR LEADER IS THE THRIFTY AND OBEDIENT MOTHER SUPERIOR BRIDEHAM

HMMM?
ANY ARE JOHN HALL INVITED HERE NEGOTIABLE NOW?

THEN WHY WOULD JOHN HALL REQUEST A MEETING IN CRIMEA NOW?
...SO HE SAID...

I'D REQUEST YOUR ASSISTANCE AND ASK THAT YOU COME WITH TEN OF YOUR NUMBER.
THE HOSPITAL FOR AN LAND "MANAGER" CORP CONTAINS A LARGE NUMBER OF INJURED SOLDIERS AND AS OF YET ARE NOT AFFORDED THE CLASS OF DISCIPLINE NEEDED TO MEET OUR HOSPITALITY NEEDS.

AH HAH! HE TOLD HER NOT TO COME.
AND NOW A LETTER FROM HIM WRITTEN IN HONEYED WORDS ASKS HER TO COME.

STRANGE! STRANGE INDEED!

—CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, JOHN HALL.

IT IS BEST, I'D ANY MEDICAL COMES HERE.
Dr. Sutherland,

I WILL TRAVEL TO ORMEA
STILL
...TO SPEAK TO CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER JOHN HALL.
HUH ?!

...BUT I'VE YET TO RECEIVE A CLEAR RESPONSE
I'VE... REPEATEDLY PETITIONED LORD HERBERT* AND THE WAR OFFICE...

BUT THERE ARE STILL NUMEROUS WOUNDED SOLDIERS WHO CANNOT LEAVE THEIR POSTS!!
FOR THEIR SAKES, AND FOR THAT OF THE FUTURE, THE DIVISION OF THE MILITARY MEDICAL SYSTEMS MUST NOT LOSE ITS MOMENTUM...
THE END OF THE WAR IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME...
BRAS-TOWN HAS FALLEN, AND THE ENEMY FORCES HAVE WITH-DRAWN...

...THAT WE NEGOTIATE A COMPRO-MISE.
IT IS NECESSA-RY...
EVEN MOTHER SUPERIOR BRICKMAN...
GO. I MUST MEET DR. HALL AND PURVEYOR-IN-CHIEF FITZGERALD.

FINALLY
IT IS MY POLICY TO MAKE MY MARK IN EVERY-THING I DO.
THAT IS WHERE I MAKE MY MARK IN THIS WAR...
Bukkhava, the Crimean Peninsula

I SEE...
AHH AHH AHH
THAT BLASTED NIGHTINGALE...
...IS COMING HERE...

YES, SIR...
AS A RESULT, SHE'LL COME BRAZENLY WALTZING INTO THIS TERRITORY FROM THE HOMELAND WITHOUT BEING GRANTED ANY STATUS.
MR. FITZGERALD. THE CONFIDENTIAL REPORT YOU WROTE DETAILING THE HARM DONE BY THAT WOMAN HAS BORNE FRUIT.

...I HAVE ONE LAST THING I WISH FOR YOU TO PROCURE.
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS MISSION WILL COMPLETE YOUR SERVICE.
I CAN SEE THE END OF THIS WAR.

KER-
CHAK

—"CRACK"
THAT WOMAN'S

THEY ARE MY... INSURANCE.
D'BON...

I DO NOT DOUBT YOUR SKILL ...
YOU WILL BE THE ONE TO LAND THE FINISHING BLOW.

© RUSSELL ALONG WITH THE REST OF MISS NIGHTINGALE'S GROUP DEPARTED FROM SCUTARI ON MARCH 16TH.

MISS NIGHTINGALE JUST LEFT FOR BALAKLAVA IN THE CRIMEA...
WHERE IS HEAD NURSE NIGHTIN-GALE?!
WHERE'S MISS NIGHTIN-GALE?
I'M TOO LATE?!!

AND FIGHT ON, THE PATH OF MAY.

AND YOU'LL BE FAR AWAY, TOO! IT'S TERRIBLE!
WOW... BUT HOW COULD MOTHER SURGEON BEDGEMAN AND HER SISTERS OF CHARITY SET OFF SO SUDDENLY TO ENGLAND AND EXPECT US TO TAKE CARE OF THIS HOSPITAL...?
WELL THEN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THIS HOSPITAL

I WILL ALSO COME TO CHECK ON KITCHENS
IT IS! WORRY NOT, LADIES!
ISN'T THAT SO, BOB?

BUT HE NEVER MET YOU BEFORE, ALWAYS SAYING HE'S BUSY, SO WHY NOW...?
SHE'S CORRECT! AND WE UNDERSTAND CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER HALL REQUESTED A MEETING WITH YOU...
I WASN'T PLANNING TO GO ALONE...

I AIN'T GILLIM!
OH, DON'T LOOK SO GLUM, BOB.
AWATER YE SAYIN', EH?
I WANNAE BE ALIVE & RELIABLE FELLOW
DON'T WORRY, MRS. ROBERTS. NO CARE WILL BE NEEDED. NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE HEAD NURSE. GOOD SIR.
NO NEED TO WORRY.
IT'S A LIVELY PARTY WE HAVE HERE.
AND I'M TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE HOSPITAL ON THE FRONT... SO I'M GOING TOO.
キシイ
CREEK
ポク ポク
YES, MA'AM
WELL THEN, SHALL WE?

A FLURRY OF SNOW FELL UPON THE DESOLATE ROAD BEFORE US AS THE CARRIAGE SLOWLY PULLED AWAY

AND WE FOUND OURSELVES SOON APPROACHING UNIMAGINED PERIL

—William Howard Russell

SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU IN SUSPENSE FOR SO LONG.

FOR FLO AND MYSELF—

...THAT DAY IS WHEN OUR STORY ENDS.

End of Chapter 22

Chapter 23

THE GHOST AND THE LADY'S FINAL STORY.

SHOTS FIRED—

B-BOB, IT'S S-S-SO C-COLD ...
COME NOW, SO MAN LIKE YE CAN'T HANDLE SOME COLD WEATHER? SOYEZ, WE'VE GOT YERSELF A DUD HERE A SECRETARY!

ヒョオオオ
HOOW BUT NOW! WHITE AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE!

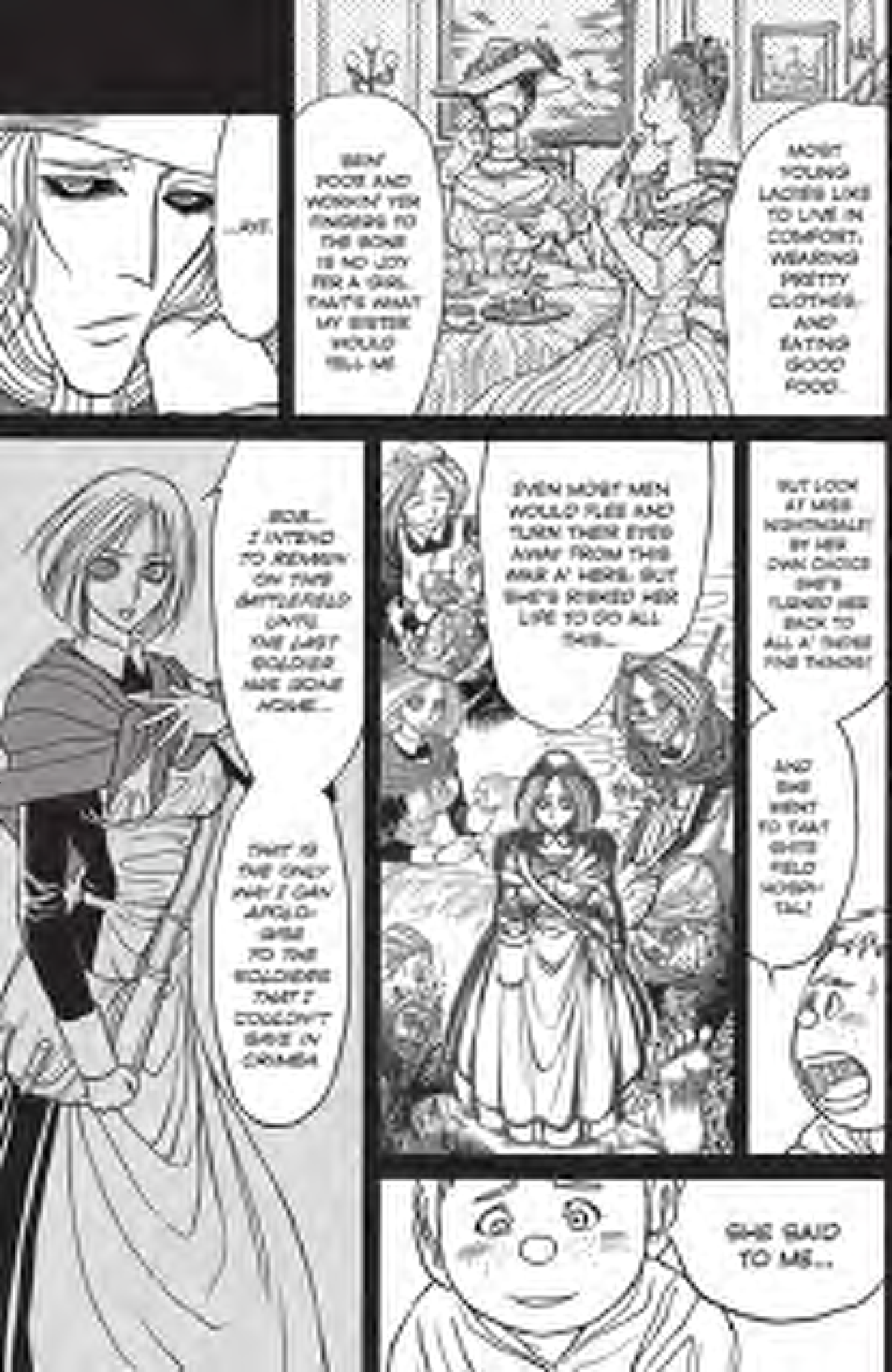
OHH BOB! IT IZ ONLY NATURAL FOR HIM. HE IZ FROM ZE PLACE ZAT HAS ZE HOT WEATHER. YOU SEE.
PLEASE FORGIVE HIM.

THAT REMINDS ME, BOB. WE'VE STILL GOT FIVE MILES TIL THE HOSPITAL. MISS NIGHTINGALE'LL TAKE OVER. THAT'LL TAKE ABOUT TWO HOURS. YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE WATER?
HUHUH! ME, RUSSELL! I'M NOT A CHILD. YOU KNOW!

ALOHA... ZERE WILL SOON BE A PEACE TREATY IN PARIS...
INDEED. THEN THIS WAR WILL ALSO BE ENDING SOON...
MISS NIGHTINGALE ?

I DO...
YOU MEAN GREEY
THAT FELLA ON THE ROOF...
WHAT IS IT, BOB?
DO SOME-THING HAPPEN WI'HA GREET
MISS NIGHT-INGALE
DO YE LIKE HIM?
...YE KNOW I CAN SEE HIM RIGHT...?
MISS NIGHTINGALE IS THE KIND AND NICE WOMAN THAT YE'VE BEEN HERE ME AND HA WE'VE BECAME FRIEND.
AND WE TALK ABOUT ALL SORTS A THINGS.
BOB...
WHY DO YOU ASK...?

AH HA HA! I LIKE THAT SPIRIT— THAT PUCK FELLA!
...THAT'S SHAKE-SPEARE'S "A MID-SUMMER'S NIGHT DREAM."
AND THEN KING OBERON GIVES HIS BLESSING FOR THE MARRIAGE OF ALL THREE COUPLES.
THAT'S HOW IT WAS.
AHH, AND THE ONLY LAKE THEATER INVOLVED IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO SEE ONE...
IF I RETURN FROM THIS WAR ALIVE... I'D... ALSO LIKE TO SEE A PLAY...
HEH HEH. I'D BEEN WATCHING PLAYS FOR 100 YEARS... OF COURSE I'D REMEMBER THEM IN DETAIL...
OHHH, YER GREAT AT ACTIN' OUT THOSE PLAYS!
...IT LOOKS TO WEE NIGHTON-GALE.
BUT I DON'T EXPECT TO RETURN HOME ALIVE... EVEN IF I DO LIVE THROUGH THIS, MY LIFE...
IS SHE REALLY THAT SPECIAL...?
THAT WOMAN... H.O...
NOT ANY-ANYMORE!!
OF COURSE SHE IS! YE WON'T FIND A WOMAN MORE AMAZIN' THAN HER!
...YE WOMAN, HOW CAN YE NOT KNOW THAT AFTER HAUNTIN' HER FER AS LONG AS YE HAVE!


...AYE.
BEIN' POOR AND WORKIN' YER FINGERS TO THE BONE IS NO JOY FER A GIRL. THAT'S WHAT MY SISTER WOULD TELL ME
MOST YOUNG LADIES LIKE TO LIVE IN COMFORT, WEARING PRETTY CLOTHES AND EATING GOOD FOOD.
BUT LOOK AT MISS NIGHTINGALE! BY HER OWN CHOICE SHE'S TURNED HER BACK TO ALL A' THOSE FINE THINGS!
EVEN MOST MEN WOULD FLEE AND TURN THEIR EYES AWAY FROM THIS AWAR A' HERS. BUT SHE'S RISKED HER LIFE TO DO ALL THIS...
AND SHE WENT TO THAT GREE FIELD HOSPI-TAL!
SIR... I INTEND TO REMAIN ON THIS BATTLEFIELD UNTIL THE LAST SOLDIER HAS BEEN MOVED...
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN APOLO-GISE TO THE SOLDIERS THAT I COULDN'T SAVE IN CRIMEA.
SHE SAID TO ME...

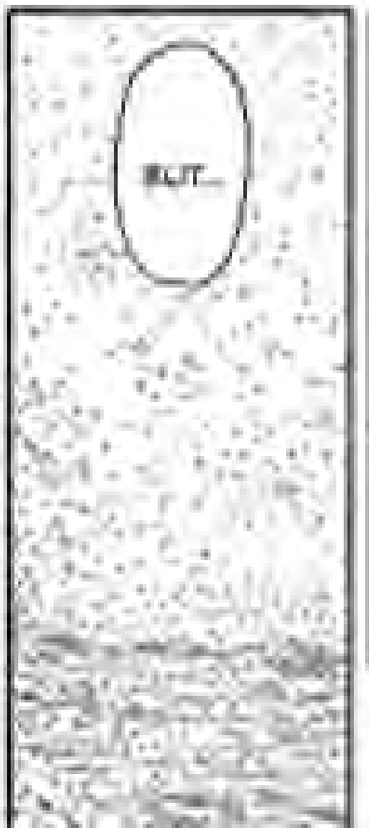
GREY! SHE WOULD NEVER BETRAY ANYONE!
HEH... A GHOST FOR A REASON, RIGHT? SO I'LL MOURN FOR YE, MISS NIGHTINGALE
AND THAT'S WHY I WAS THINKIN' HE NEED TO HURRY AND GET AWAY FROM HIM.
BUT THAT'S WHEN... I SAW IT FOR THE FIRST TIME...
...NEVER... BETRAY...
HUH?

THAT GHOST SAILING LATE ME DAD.

HE DIDN'T GET IT. DO YE MIND ANSWERIN' ONE...
HEH HEH. PERHAPS HE COULD BECOME ONE OF MY RIGHT-HAND MEN ALONG WITH YOU BOB.

THAT KID MIGHT BE THINKIN' THAT... HE'S JUST LIKE ME...
OH MY...

...HE CAN NEVER DO THE SAME AS YE...
HE'S DEAD... SO NO MATTER HOW CLOSE HE IS...


BUT...

I CAN GO WHEREVER YE GO AND DO WHATEVER YE DO LIKE I'M DOING NOW.
...WHEN I SAW THAT, I SUDDENLY FELT BAD FOR HIM.

THAT'S SO... SAD...

PERHAPS THE ENVIRONMENT AFFORDED BY THE FOOLISH DEMON CASTLIAN'S HOME AIDED MY RECOVERY —
YES... THE SPECTRAL WOUND I RECEIVED FROM D'EON'S BULLET HAS ALREADY HEALED...

HAVE YOU ALREADY RECOVERED —?

YOU ALWAYS WERE A GUARD DOG...
BUT DON'T WORRY... I DIDN'T DO A THING...
GREY, YOU GAVE ME SOME SORT OF "ENERGY" WHILST I WAS SLEEPING, DIDN'T YOU...?
IS THAT SO...?
BUT DON'T YOU EVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN...
A DREAM...?
...GREY, WHEN YOU WERE DONE I SAW YOU IN A DREAM...
YOU REMEMBER THAT I'M SUPPOSED TO KILL YOU, RIGHT...?
GREY, YOU WERE... STANDING IN THE RAIN...

IN FRONT OF THE THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE

FROM BEHIND, YOU LOOKED SO SORROWFUL...
BUT I COULD NEVER GET CLOSE...
I... WANTED TO EVEN TOWARDS YOU...
...

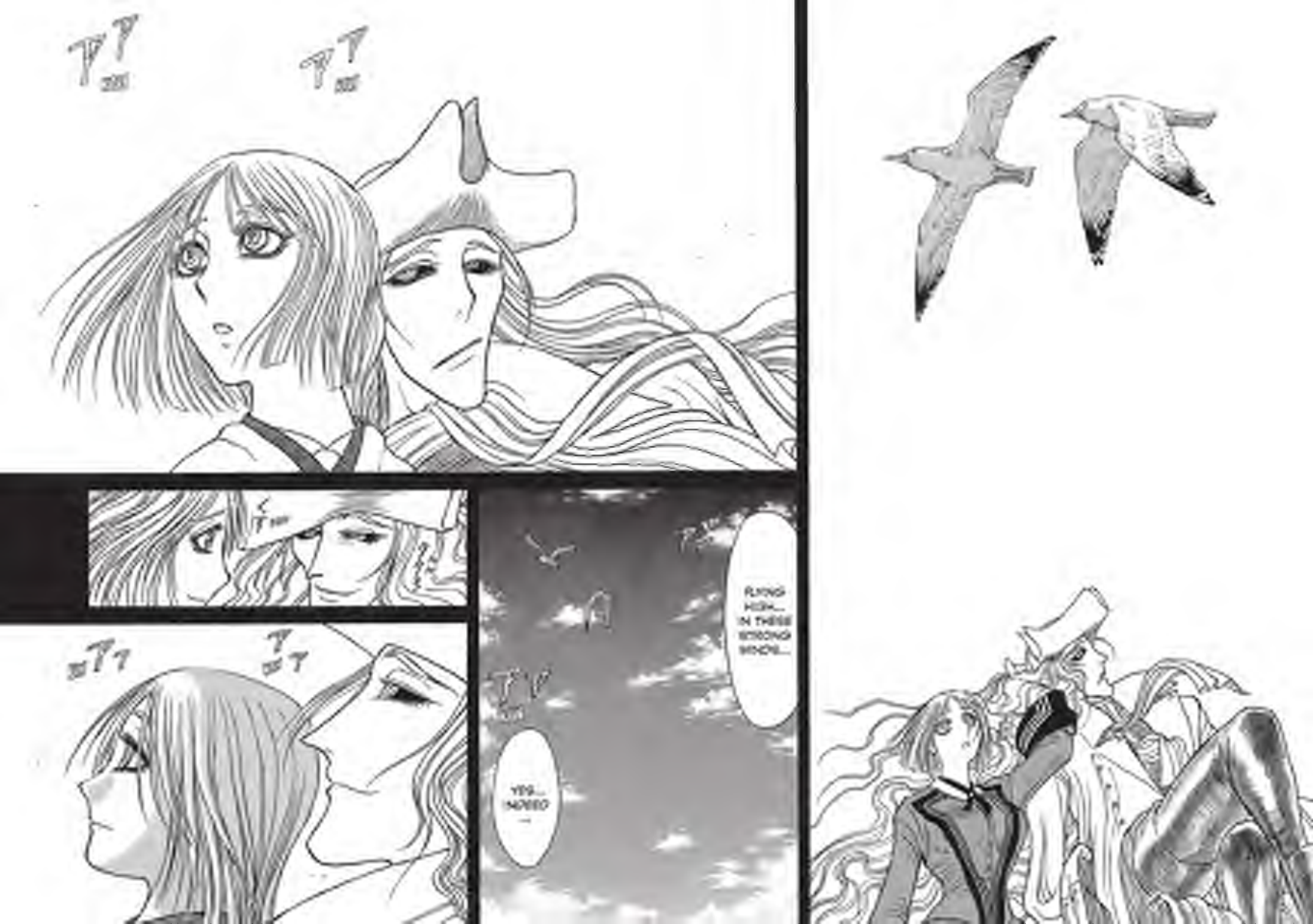
YOU KNOW YOU CAN GO TO THE THEATRE AS OFTEN AS YOU LIKE ONCE THE WARS OVER, RIGHT?
WHAT A SURREAL DREAM.
AND THAT'S WHY I'M TRAPPED HERE!

REALLY? REALLY?!
AYE. I'M HAUNTING YOU AFTER ALL.
AND WHEN I DO... YOU'LL ACCOMPANY ME...?
ADD OF SIN

THAT'S RIGHT!
SO HURRY UP AND DESPAIR ALREADY!!
OH, YES! YOU'VE PROMISED TO KILL ME WHEN I SUCCUMB TO MY DESPAIR!
I WILL! I MAY LOOK FINE NOW, BUT I AM SURE TO QUICKLY LOSE HOPE!!
WILL YOU AGREE?
I WILL! I'LL DEFINITELY DESPAIR!
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, PLEASE KILL ME!
NO, REALLY! ONCE I FINISH WHAT I'M DOING HERE, I'LL PREPARE MYSELF TO FALL TO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR AND GO RUNNING TO THE THEATRE!
IS THAT SO? I DON'T THINK YOU'LL LOSE A THING...
AND THAT'S WHEN I'LL RUSH RIGHT OVER TO YOU!

I AM SERI-OUS !!
AH HA HA... YOU CAN'T BE SERI-OUS ...
...HEH HEH.
I'M NO ANGEL. I'M ONLY ...
...SCAR-TERED "FLOWERS" OF THE THINGS MEN MUST DO...
FLOWERS THAT ARE FORLORN AND FLEETING ...
YOU, THE ONE THEY CALL THE "ANGEL OF CRIMEA." "THE LADY WITH THE LAMP." YOU, SUCCUMB-ING TO DISEASE?
A TRUE "ANGEL" ...
A TRUE "ANGEL" ...

...WHO FIGHTS FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER.
...IS WHAT YOU CALL SOME-ONE...
ISN'T THAT WHO YOU ARE ...?
...
DOWN NOW
TT
TT


FLYING HIGH... IN THESE STRONG WINDS...
YES... MOMO

KAREKI
...I DON'T THINK SO...
BUT...
GREY AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO THINGS TOGETHER...
BOB... IT'S TRUE...
HUH?
AND THAT'S ENOUGH... TO MAKE ME HAPPY...
...WE'VE BEEN... THE SAME THINGS TOGETHER.
...MRS. NIGHT-INGALE... THEN I'LL DO...
AND HE ALSO...

BLAM!
HUH? DEM?
FLO! WATCH OUT!!
GET DOWN!
GRAB
AHHHH! WE'RE UNDER ATTAAAACK!!

MAKE READY!!
PRES-ENT!

THOSE ARE DR. RALL'S ORDERS!
NO BUNNY-HOARS!

FIRE!
POW
POW
POW
POW
End of Chapter 25

I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN...
...

THEY CAN HIDE THEMSELVES BUT I CAN SEE THEIR EDDOLONG PLAIN AS DAY.
12...20 MEN WAITING IN AMBUSH UP AHEAD... SON...? BAYONETS! SHIP ...SO THEY'RE SOLDIERS...
IT'S THE PERFECT CHANCE ...
...THAT WOMAN PASSING ALONG A DESERTED PATH.

VWOOSH
...CHEVALIER D'ÉON!!
SOMEONE'S COMING!
HMM? IS THIS —?!
THIS PRESENCE, IT'S THE...
THOSE MEN'S BANDOLIER HAS MANIFESTLY ITSELF AS EGOLOVE, AND AS LONG AS I CAN SLAY THEM EGOLOVE —
...THEIR SPIRITS WILL BREAK AND THEY WON'T HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO MOVE.
EVEN AGAINST 20 EGOLOVE, I CAN STILL...
Chapter 24
THE GHOST AND THE LADY'S FINAL STORY
—DUEL IN CRIMEA—
!

Bonjour, Grey!
SWOOSH
FLO! WATCH OUT...!
DAMN!
SUCH SWIFTNESS ...!!
CLASH
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

D'ION! I SEE YOU WERE ABLE TO KEEP YOUR FORM AFTER THE THRASHING I GAVE YOU!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU! SINCE MY DEATH, I'VE ACCUMULATED 40 YEARS' WORTH OF ESSENCE.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, GREY ?!

YOU'RE LOOKING A LITTLE THIN AFTER LOSING SOME OF YOUR ESSENCE!

IT BRINGS ME PLEASURE TO HEAR THAT... BY ALL MEANS, MAKE THIS A REAL CHALLENGE.
EVER SINCE YOU TOOK ME UNAWARE AT BIRAS-TORO ...
SILENCE! I'LL TURN YOU TO DUST IN AN INSTANT AND SCATTER YOU TO THE WINDS!
...I'VE GROWN TO HATE YOU SO, OF YOUS AND TELLA-MENT OF YOUS AND OF YOUS AND OF YOUS!"
I LOOK FOR-WARD ...
...TO SLICING YOU TO PIECES!
?!

IT APPEARS THAT THE ACTION ON THE GROUND HAS BEGUN...
SURROUNDED IN SUCH A PLACE, NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE.

THEY'RE THE NIGHTINGALE ASSASSINATION SQUAD.
AS YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW, THERE ARE 20 FULLY-ARMED SOLDIERS UNDER ORDERS FROM DR. HALL.

...I WILL WATCH AS THE LIFE SLOWLY LEAVES HER EYES.
FIRST, I WILL EXTINGUISH YOU. THEN AS NIGHTINGALE DIES...

CALM IT!
VROOM
I can't dance alone.
I won't let you go!
...!
CLANG

...FOO!

MONSIEUR BOB. ZE RUSSIANS HAVE WITHDRAWN. ZEY ARE NO LONGER IN ZIS LAND.
WHA... WHAT'S GOING ON?
BOB. THOSE AREN'T RUSSIAN SOLDIERS!
ENEMY ATTAAACK!

IN-DEED.
THIS IS A STRATEGIC "CAMPAIGN" ...
P!

AND THEY'RE AIMING CARE-FULLY AT DIFFERENT ANGLES TO AVOID HITTING EACH OTHER.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN...?

...ASSASSINATE MISS NIGHTINGALE!
THERE IS NO DOUBT...
HEY AIM TO...
THE TARGET IS SILENT!
ADVANCE 50 YARDS!
BE ON THE ALERT UNTIL EACH AND EVERY MEMBER IS CONFIRMED DEAD!
TIGHTEN THE CIRCLE TO ASSURE OUR VICTORY!
OUR VIEW IS POOR DUE TO SNOWFALL!
ZASH
ZASH

BE CAREFUL, BIG MAN! IT'S DANGEROUS!
MR. SECRETARY... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
AH, JEAN? BE CAREFUL...
MONSIEUR BOYER. I DEPART...
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE BACK SOON.
THEY MEAN TO KILL US ALL...
IT IS! THEY WANT ME. IF I GO, THEN THEY WON'T...
MONSIEUR RUSSELL!
VOILÀ!
STOP HIM! PLEASE, BOY...

YOU SAY YOU'RE JUST A CHEF, BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE VERY SCARED.
FINE ...
OH. I AM JUST A CHEF...
WHAT?! I'M SHOOT-ING?!
BECAUSE MR. BLACK IS OUT THERE.
I JUST DON'T THINK I'LL DIE SOON ...
I'M TERRIFIED ...
NO SIR!
YOU SEE SOME-THING?

MAKE READY!
FINISH THEM OFF WITH THE NEXT VOLLEY!
FIRE-ENT!

Hi...

BA-
BLAM!

T=
DASH!
AHHH
...!!

A BIG ENFIELD RIFLE-MUSKET... LOADING TIME IS 20 SECONDS, WHICH MEANS...
BLAM
AN ENEMY !?
BANG

ONCE FIRED, THERE'S 20 SECONDS BEFORE THE NEXT SHOT
...SLOW.
THE AGGRESSORS' WEAPONS ARE...
THAT DARK-SKINNED FELLOW'S GIVING THEM A NUISANCE!

End of Chapter 24

STAB
SLASH

YOU'RE TRYING TO DEFEAT THE SOLDIERS' EGOISMS BEHIND MY BACK TO SAP THEIR MORALE, BUT I WILL NOT LET YOU!!
GREY! I'M YOUR OPPONENT!
GA-GUAAANG
IS MISSINGALE THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?!
YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND, D'BON! I'VE BEEN SAYING THAT I'M TO KILL HER AS THE LEADING LADY IN MY TRAGEDY!
Chapter 25
THE GHOST AND THE LADY'S FINAL STORY
A CONVERSATION BETWEEN BLADE AND BULLET

I DO NOT CARE! I ONLY DESIRE YOUR HEART!
YOU FOOL! A GHOST HAS NO HEART!

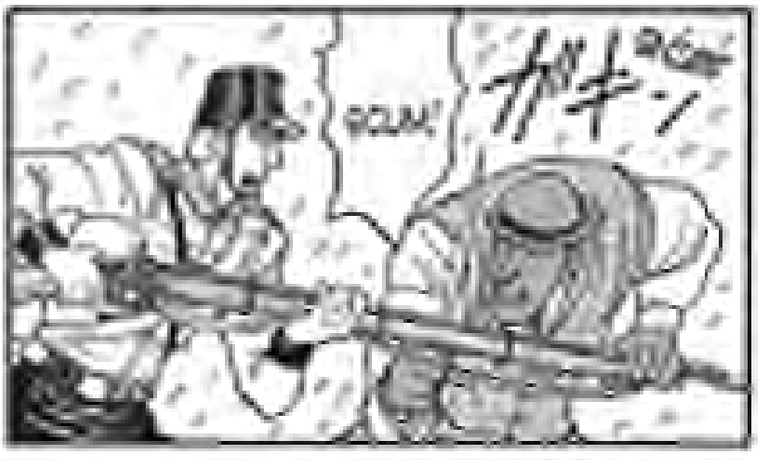
A SINGLE THRUST INTO THAT SPOT, AND YOU AND I WILL TURN TO DUST.

OH, BUT WE DO! IT'S IN THE CENTRE OF OUR SPIRITUAL BODIES! IN THE SAME PLACE WHERE IT ONCE MOVED AS LIVING MEN!

WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND STAB MY HEART, GREY?!

OR SHALL I STAB YOURS ?!
YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT INTO OUR AREA-NOW !!
DAMN... IT...! D'BONE'S ATTACKS ARE TOO QUICK... I CAN'T PROTECT P.O.'
ZH-SCOSH
WHAT ARE THEY DOING ON THE NORTH SIDE !?
OUR LINE'S BEEN THE ONLY ONE HOLD UP UNTIL A MOMENT AGO. THERE'S NO BULLETS COMING FROM THIS SIDE.

THERE'S NO TIME! KILL HIM WITH YOUR BAYONETS!
WHEN DID HE— PI RIBS!
WHO THE HELL'S HE?!


BOUM!

THE WOUNDS I WILL INFLICT CANNOT BE HEALED.
YOU FOUL CRIMINAL... DO NOT THINK THAT WOMAN WILL HEAL YOU!

GYAAAAH...

GO, BIG MAN!

BANG
BANG
FIGHT ON!
SOYER! I BROUGHT GUNS! ANSWER THE CALL TO BATTLE! I'LL TEACH YE HOW TO SHOOT!
BOB!
SPECIAL DELIVERY!
ME— EVERY-ONE— NONE'A US WANT YE TO DIE, MISS NIGHTIN-GALE.
MR. SOYER'S NEVER FIRED A GUN!
BOB! WHY DID YOU PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER —?
CAN'T UNDER-STAND —

MISS NIGHTINGALE... I'VE BEEN WATCHING THIS WAR AS A REPORTER
B... BUT...
I...
AYE...
OOK.
IN OUR MISFORTUNE MANY HE ALL CAN ONLY PRAY OF OUR WORK.
IT'S REAL... THE WORST KIND OF HELL...
YOU WERE OUR ONE AND ONLY "ANGEL"
...AND NO ONE COULD EVER TAKE YOUR PLACE.
...AND WHERE ARE NOW? ...THERE WAS ONLY ONE "ANGEL"!

MISS NIGHTINGALE. JUST LIKE HOW YE WANT ALL A' US TO LIVE...
...WE ALSO WANT YE TO LIVE!
WHETHER I LIVE OR DIE, I AM ABSOLUTELY POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING.
IN A WORLD RULED WITH THESE MONSTERS THAT HAVE TAKEN OUR HEARTS.
I... I...
I... HOW CAN I...
WHEN WE NEXT FIRE ZE RIFLES, BOB, YOU ESCAPE WITH MADEMOISELLE NIGHTINGALE!
BOW! I KNOW HOW TO SHOOT NOW!

AND HERE... HOLD ONTO THIS.
OH...
DON'T BE A FOOL. YOU'RE MISS NIGHTINGALE'S PROTECTOR, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT? I CAN FIGHT!
EVEN IN COOKING, THERE IS A PROPER ORDER! ONE MISTAKE AND IT IS ALL RUINED!
NO! WE SHOULD ALL ESCAPE TOGETHER!!
MR. KNOWS HIS NOTEBOOK
BLAM
ALL RIGHT, SOLDIER! LET'S DO IT!
OUR MISSION!
MR. BLACK'S LIFE WOULD BE WASTED

TASTE THE NIGHTINGALE
KILL THEM ALL!
FOLLOW ME!
I'VE BEEN TRAINING EVER SINCE YOU KILLED ME! I WON'T LET YOU KILL ME AGAIN!
HEH HA HA! YOUR SKILLS HAVE IMPROVED, GIREY!!

BANG
OH?! WELL, I'VE BEEN PRACTICING WITH THIS!

BOOM BOOM
FU— FU—

IT'S NO WONDER YOU'RE HAUNTING THAT COWARD HALL!
YOU TWO ARGUE WITH EACH OTHER. DON'T YOU?

TAKING OUT A GUN IN THIS DUEL IT

WHO DECIDED IT A DUEL OF SWORDS?

I HAD MY REASONS FOR HAUNTING THAT MAN.

UNABLE TO RETURN TO MY NATIVE FRANCE, I DIED IN ENGLAND AND WAS LEFT TO WANDER ABOUT.

BUT HE ASKED ME TO PERFORM WHAT I LOVE MOST IN THIS WORLD— MURDER!

AH... IT MUSTHAVE TICKLED YOUR NANCY TO BREAK YOUR SWORN TIES WITH YOUR FELLOW LOWLIFE.

I HAD DIED AT 26 NEW WILLIAM STREET...

...AND HIS CASSADE WOULD OFTEN PASS BY.

SIR FYDDOR, THE MASTER-GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE. HE ALSO DIED...
SO YOU LET HIM ORDER YOU AROUND OUT OF FEAR.
SOMETIMES EVEN I COULD BARELY DEAL WITH THAT THING.
HIS ECCLON ARE THE LARGEST I'D EVER SEEN. WHICH MADE IT RATHER TROUBLESOME.
AH
GA CLANG
...HALL'S SLAVE!
YOU ARE ORDERED TO KILL HIM. AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE NOTHING BUT...
YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING HER... INDEED, YOU ACTUALLY FIGHT FOR HER, NO?
YOU BELIEVE YOU'LL KILL THAT WOMAN AND BECOME A PERFORMER IN SOME "TRAGEDY"?
AND WHAT OF YOU?
HIS... SLAVE ...?

HAH... WHAT A
A SLAVE TO LOVE IS VERY
YOU, GREY, ARE NO MORE THAN HER SLAVE!
HAH! FOOL!
AND...!
PA
PON

WE GOT YOU!

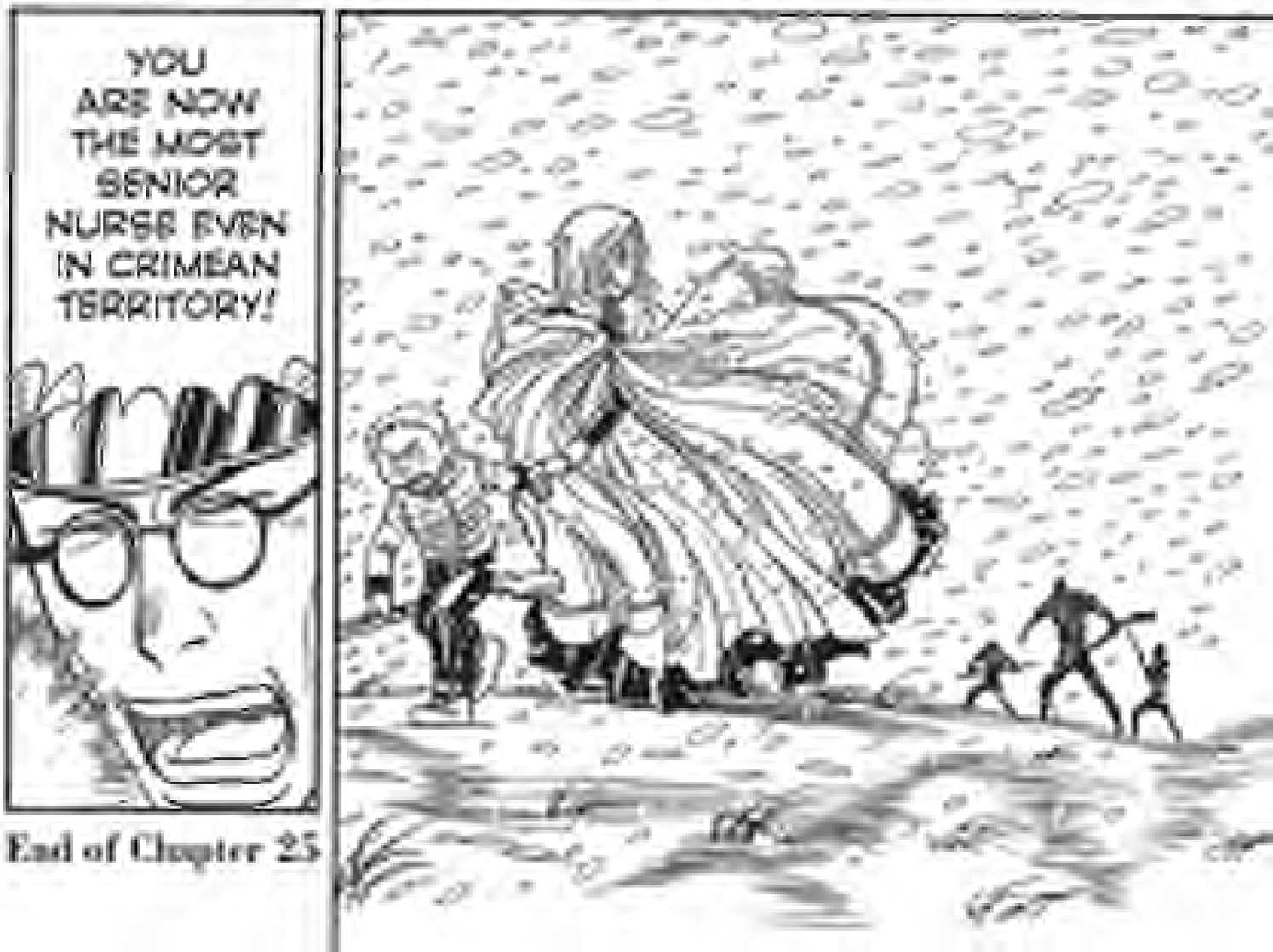
I CAN'T NOT MAKE ONE HIT
IT LOOKS LIKE I WOULD BE BETTER TO MAKE IT INTO SALAD BY THROWING A POT WITH VINEGAR...
THIS MIGHT BE MY FINAL DISPATCH
HE HE... YES.

AS AGE YOU, CHEF...
YOU ARE 25 FUNNY MAN, RUSSELL.

KILL THEM ALL!
THEY APPEAR TO BE OUT OF BULLETS!

THIS IS FOR THE HELL YOU'VE GIVEN US!
BLAAAM
ARGH
GAH!
THEY SHOULD HAVE NO ALLIES...
W... WHAT?!

YOU HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF ALL ARMY HOSPITALS BY A GENERAL ORDER ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR!
ARE YOU UNARMED?!
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT MIGHTN'T SAY!
I HAVE A GENERAL ORDER!



End of Chapter 25

chapter 26

THE GHOST AND THE LADY'S FINAL STORY

—THE FINAL ENEMY—

BANG
BANG

BANG

GENERAL SUBSTANCE!
NIGHTINGALE, ARE YOU UNHARMED?
BANG!

THANK HEAVENS SHE'S UNHARMED!
WE HEARD RUMBLINGS OF A DISQUIETING PLOT AND HURRIED HERE!

BUT HIS HEARING THE UNIFORM OF AN ENGLISH LIEUTENANT COLONEL
ZAT MUST BE ZE NEW SERGEANT

...TO DISCOVER THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION.
CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE ON SCIENTIFIC MATTERS TO THE SECRETARY FOR WAR, IN OTHER WORDS, I WAS SENT UNDER LORD RAMSLEY'S ORDERS TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATH ON WEE NIGHTINGALE...
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
YOU ARE...?
WE'RE SAVED!

AND THEN I MET HER.

WE RECEIVED A "CONFIDENTIAL REPORT FROM PLANTATION-IN-CHIEF MISSISSALO STATING THAT SHE IS AN ARROGANT BRAGGART.
A REPORT?

THOSE ARE BLOODY LIES WRITTEN UNDER JOHN HALL'S ORDERS!
GOD...? HELLO!

For me, it is important that I make my rounds
It's ill... frustrating... why can't I [illegible] the number of visits...?
Are you aware of the complete history of every patient on this hospital...

...TO BE A COMPLETE FABRICATION BORN OF PERSONAL SPITE!
I DEEM JOHN HALL AND FITZ-GERALD'S REPORT ON NIGHTIN-GALE...

I would like...

あはは
SO... ALL CANNOT GET IN HER WAY ANYMORE!

OH... SHIT!

A GENERAL ORDER?! INCREDIBLE! BOYER SAFE'S BECOME THE MOST SENIOR NURSE IN CRIMEA!!
...APPOINTING MISS NIGHTINGALE AS GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF ALL ARMY HOSPITALS.
AND JUST YESTERDAY, THE WAR OFFICE ISSUED A GENERAL ORDER...

RUN!
COM-
MANDER FITZ-
GERALD'S GONE!
BANG
BANG

FIND
THEM AT
ONCE!
BUT IS
ATTACKER'S
SKY LEFT.
ZERO IS
NO MORE
DANGER.
NO..?

SHE
JUST
FLED
WITH
BOB.
SO
WHERE
IS THIS
LADY
?

...SINCE
THE
GENERAL
ORDER
WAS
ISSUED...
...WHO HASN'T
BEEN SEEN...
...ONE
MORE
PERSON
—
...THERE'S
STILL

I FOLLOW ORDERS FROM MY SUPERIORS.
THAT'S WHAT A SOLDIER DOES.
MR. FITZGERALD, WHY...? YOU'RE A PURSUER...
YE SNARLESS VILLAIN! JUST TRY AND COME NEAR MISS NIGHTINGALE! I'LL SHOOT

WE RESENT ORDERED TO DO ANYTHING THEN.

AN ORDER TO KILL MISS NIGHTINGALE?! EVEN IF SHE'S DONE NOTIN' BAD?! AND WHEN YE DID NOTIN' AS WE NEARED DEATH?

I CAN'T SEE THE SOLDIERS ANYMORE...
BOB
NIGHT-NIGHT, ANGEL. PLEASE CLOSE YER EYES —
I'LL MAKE QUICK WORK OF THEM —
FIRE!

GREY...!
FOOLISH MAN! YOU DARE TURN YOUR BACK ON YOUR OPPONENT DURING A DUEL!?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU SOLDIERS!?
NGAH! DIE, NIGHTINGALE!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

BANG

ARE YOU HURT?!
AWW, HEH... THAT'S FOR ALL THE SOLDIERS YE STARVED TO DEATH...

THUD

GREY!
SLASH!
GREY.
...BUT THAT LEFT YOU OPEN TO MY ATTACK. NOW YOU'LL FACE TO NOTHINGNESS. AND, ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE, YOU WILL ALSO LOSE THAT WOMAN.
YOU ONLY HELPED HER BY ATTACKING THE BODY, ONE —

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HER... EVEN THE WOMAN ALREADY HAS A GIRLY PROTECTION WITH HER...
DON'T BELIEVE FOR A MOMENT THAT I'M IN SOME DESPERATE BATTLE...
...REN. DON'T GIVE ME THOSE LOOKS...
I'M ONLY PRETENDED TO BE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION IN ORDER TO MAKE THE DRAMA OF THIS ACTION SCENE EVEN SO THRILLING!!
Whish!

HE'S A NO GOOD VILLAIN AND TRIED TO TAKE YER LIFE!
EVEN SO, I AM A NURSE.
...THAT HE ARE...

I—
I WAS—
OI, BEJIT! YE TRIED TO KILL A WOMAN WHO'S NOW SAVIN' YER LIFE!
—JOEL.
—JOEL.
—
—
THOK
YE CAN'T SLOW DOWN ...
COME, MISS NORTH- GALE! THIS WAY!

BOS
!!

FROM THE START... YOU WERE JUST A WEALTHY COWARD WHO REPLACED HER DESIRE FOR FAME WITH A NEED FOR VENGEANCE.
ズズ
ズズ
IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT YOU, YOU, YOU... YOU'RE JUST A SELFISH BITCH WHO MEDDLES IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS AND CAUSES HARM WITHOUT REFLECTING ON YOUR ACTIONS. ALL FOR YOUR OWN PEACE OF MIND AND NOTHING MORE.
YOU FANATICAL HYPOCRITE OF A WOMAN! YOU CAME TO THIS LAND ONLY TO HUMILIATE ME.

I AM CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER JOHN HALL.

End of Chapter 26

Chapter 27
THE GHOST AND THE LADY'S FINAL STORY
—THE SHOWDOWN—
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU... I'VE STUDIED YOU THOROUGHLY.

YOU CAME FOR YOURSELF!
SIMPLY PUT, YOU DIDN'T COME TO NURSE SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS!

LONG AGO, YOU HEARD THE VOICE OF YOOP AND REALIZED CONVINCED YOURSELF OF YOUR MISSION! IF YOU DON'T MAKE IT A REALITY, YOUR MENTAL INTEGRITY WOULDN'T ALLOW YOU TO CONTINUE LIVING!

AH HA HA HA!
THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU, FLO! YOU'RE UNSTABLE AND MEAN, YET YOU TRY TO SUSTAIN YOURSELF BY CONCENTRATING ON WORK!
MR. MISS NIGHTINGALE...
...WEAK
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE...
SEEING THAT ARMORED OF YOURS SWELLING NERVOUSLY IN YOUR ENDS FUELS MY PASSION TO INFLICT PAIN ON YOU!
YOU LAUGH
I'LL VANQUISH YOU SOON ENOUGH, GREY! AND I'LL DO IT JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE LIFE LEAVE HER EYES!

BLAM!
YOU DO NOT KNOW THE TRUE HORRORS OF WAR, LITTLE BOY! BUT NOW YOU WILL FINALLY LEARN WHAT A BULLET TASTES LIKE!
YOUR EGO-FILLED GAME OF WAR IS FINISHED!

YOU HYPO-CRITE !!
UNGH
IF YOU'VE ANY LAST WORDS, NOW'S THE THE TIME TO SAY THEM!

CLANG!

...OH+ BOY...
GIVE YOUR PERFORMANCE. FLO... IT'S YOUR STAGE.
HAH... I DO KNOW.
ZH
THE TRUE HORRORS OF WAR...
IT IS NOT THE INJURIES OR THE BLOOD.
HOW IS IT PAIN OR MENTAL HOW DYSFUNCTION. ACUTE OR CHRONIC.
THE BOOT OF THIS WORLD'S ILL.
ZHOOOO

IT IS NOT THE BITTER COLD ...
...OR THE GRUESOME HEAT
IT IS NOT EVEN THE STARVATION.
THAT WOMAN... HER EXCUSE ...
WITHOUT BATTING AN EYE, YOU COMMANDED YOUR SOLDIERS TO KILL ME.
AND THE FINAL WORDS OF ONE OF THOSE SOLDIERS WERE...
IT WAS LOST...
...FOLLOWING ORDERS."
SEEING THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF THOSE SOLDIERS PARALYZED AS THEY "JUST FOLLOW ORDERS."
THAT IS THE TRUE HORROR OF WAR...

YOU ARE THE TRUE HORROR OF WAR!
SCREEEE
ADVICE TOWARDS THE SUPERIOR OF OTHERS.
SELFISH ACTS OF JEALOUSY TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER. FOUL CONSPIRACIES AND BRUTALITIES.
JOHN HALL CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER...

WH... WHAT THE HELL'S THAT...?

A SMALL-SELF-CENTRED CHILD WHO CLINGS TO WORK TO FIND PURPOSE IN MY OWN EXISTENCE...
...AND PERHAPS I AM AS YOU SAY... I MAY BE A STRANGE WOMAN WHO HEARS VOICES...

I SHOUT "ONWARD" AS MY MOTTO AND FIND FAULT MUCH YOUR KIND...
I AM VERY MUCH A "HYPO-CRITE"...
BUT... I WILL NOT QUIT...
FOR IF I QUIT SO WILL EVERY-ONE ELSE...

YOU CALLED ME A "HYPO-CRITE"...
...IM... IMPOSSIBLE... YOUR ECCLON... NO HUMAN COULD POSSIBLY HAVE ONE THIS LARGE...

HALL... IS THAT AN "HYPOCRISY"...
...IT AS A "HYPOCRISY" THAT I MUST SEE THROUGH TO ITS END!

I BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD THAT CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THIS "HYPOCRISY."
BUT I BELIEVE IN WHAT I DO.
THAT BATTLE IS NOT ONE I FIGHT HAND-IN-HAND WITH OTHERS. IT IS ONE I FIGHT ALONE...

WHAT...? THAT EXCLAIM...
SCREEE

NO ONE CAN STAND UP AGAINST THAT WOMAN —

WHY DO I HAVE TO OBEY ?!
HER BOLDNESS MUST BE THE RESULT OF ALL THE RESENTMENT SHE'S BEEN ACCUMULATING.
THAT WORTHLESS WOMAN SHE'S ALWAYS ENDURED EVERYTHING. THAT LOWER HER HEAD WITH A TIMID LOOK ON HER FACE.
HEH HEH HEH

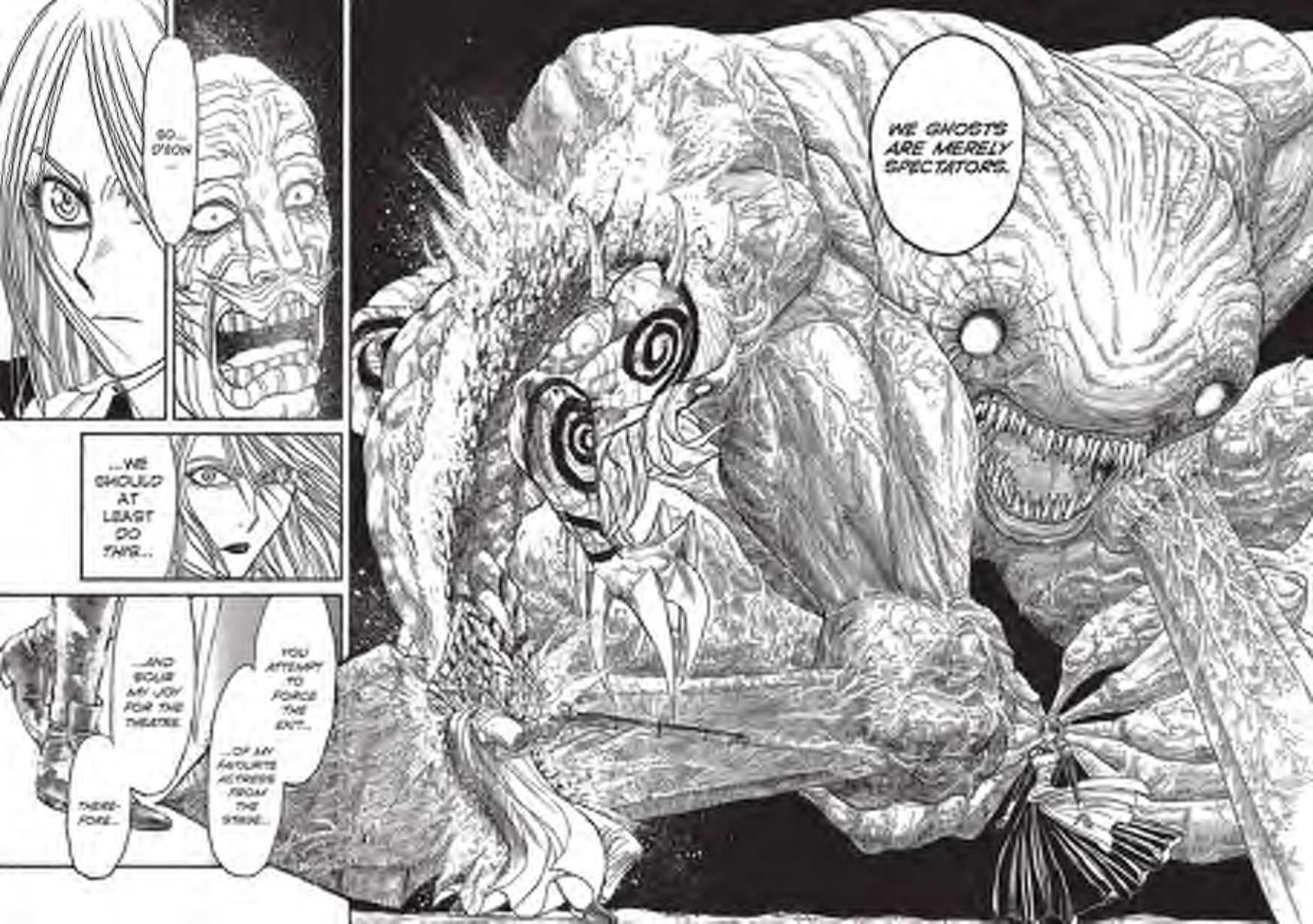
SHE HAS NO INTENTION OF DESPAIRING!
WHEN SHE REACHES THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR, DO YOU NOT WISH TO KILL HER AND BECOME A PERFORMER UPON THE STAGE OF A TRAGEDY!?

YOU'VE BEEN BETRAYED BY A WOMAN ONCE AGAIN!

Therefore, I will take the stage as the lead!

AYE—

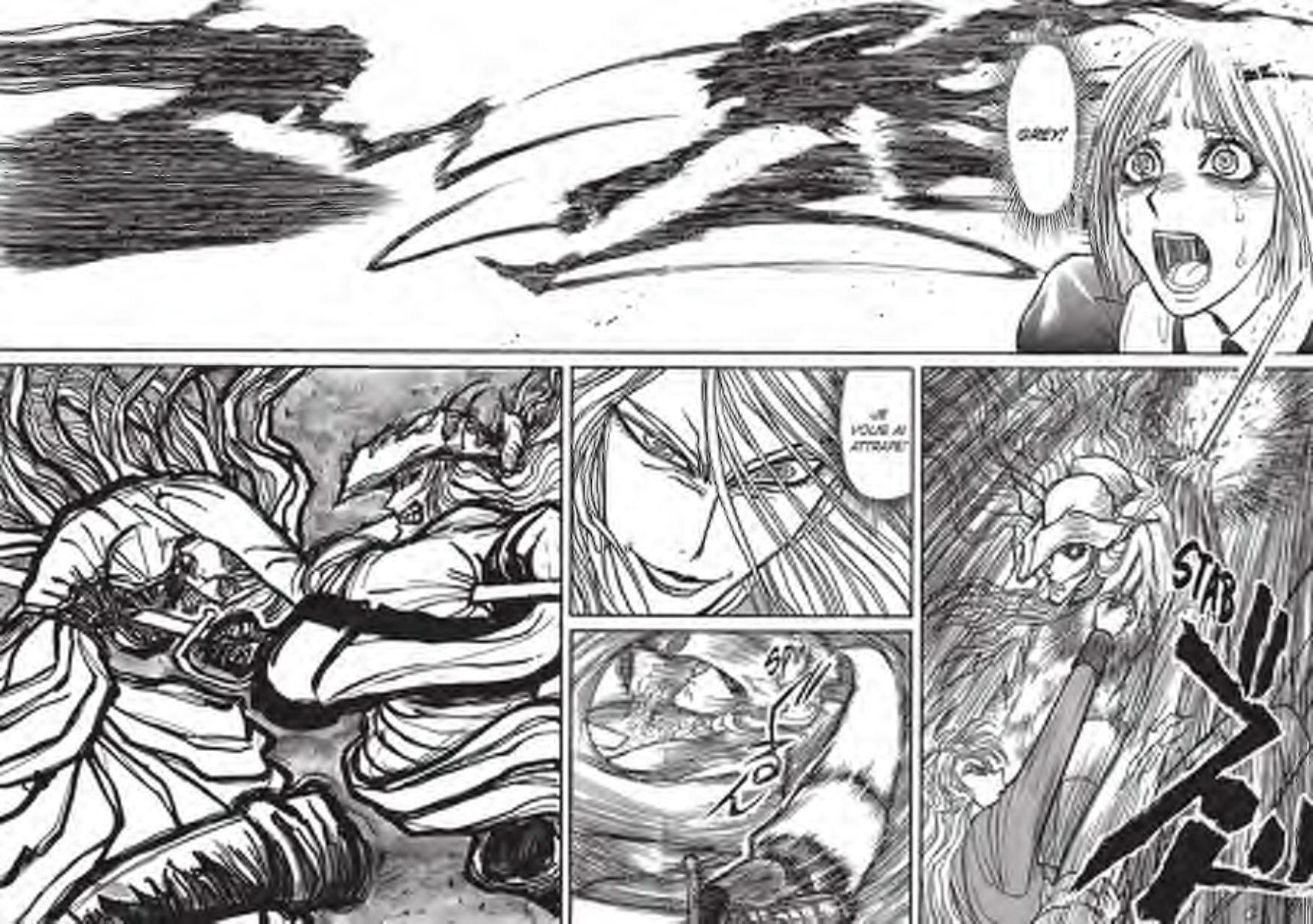
WE'RE NOT PERFORMERS ON THE STAGE.
NO. YOU'RE WRONG, O'DON.
The miserable she is felled by the gun of the vile mall and Flo's guardian, Greg, is killed by a beautiful chevalier!
DILIGENTLY ACTING OUT THE ROLES GIVEN TO THEM IN THE LIMITED TIME ALLOTTED FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE.
THE CADS ON THE STAGE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LIVING HUMANS.


SO... D'EON
...WE SHOULD AT LEAST DO THIS...
...AND SOAK MY VOY FOR THE THEATRE.
THERE-FORE...
YOU ATTEMPT TO FORCE THE EXIT...
...OF MY FAVOURITE ACTRESS FROM THE STAGE...
WE GHOSTS ARE MERELY SPECTATORS.

...HONOUR DEMANDS I GRANT YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL ME
THEN, I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL.
HEH... GRAND WORDS FOR A HALFWIT WHO FAILED TO CLIMB UPON THE STAGE EVEN WHILE ALIVE...
ONCE AGAIN, YOU'VE BEEN BETRAYED BY A WOMAN. AND ONCE AGAIN, YOU'LL LOSE TO ME.
FINE, THEN. I ACCEPT.

I KNOW... I KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO... POWERFUL —
IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE THAT SHORT... BY YOUR SIDE...

ゴット
AND JUST AS I PLANNED... VICTORY... WILL BE MINE.
HE'LL SOON DISSIPATE WITH A SINGLE BLOW FROM MY O'BON...
LOOK... YOUR GHOSTS ALREADY IN TATTERS —
IF HE HAD DISAPPEARED... YOU'D BETTER TO BEING... JUST SOME PAMPERED, FANATICAL GIRL...

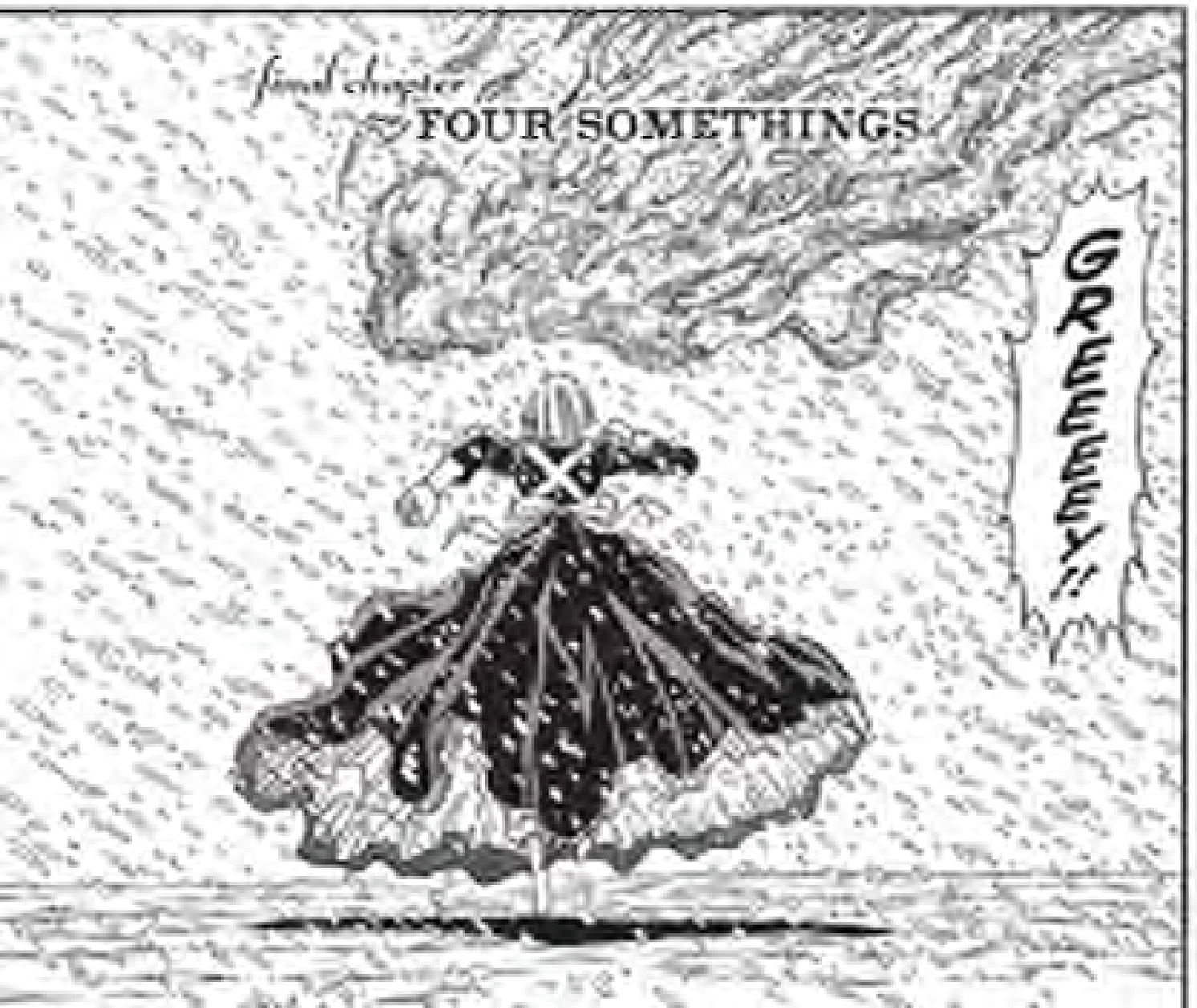

GREY!
HE YOUR AI ATTRIBUTE!
SPIT
STAB

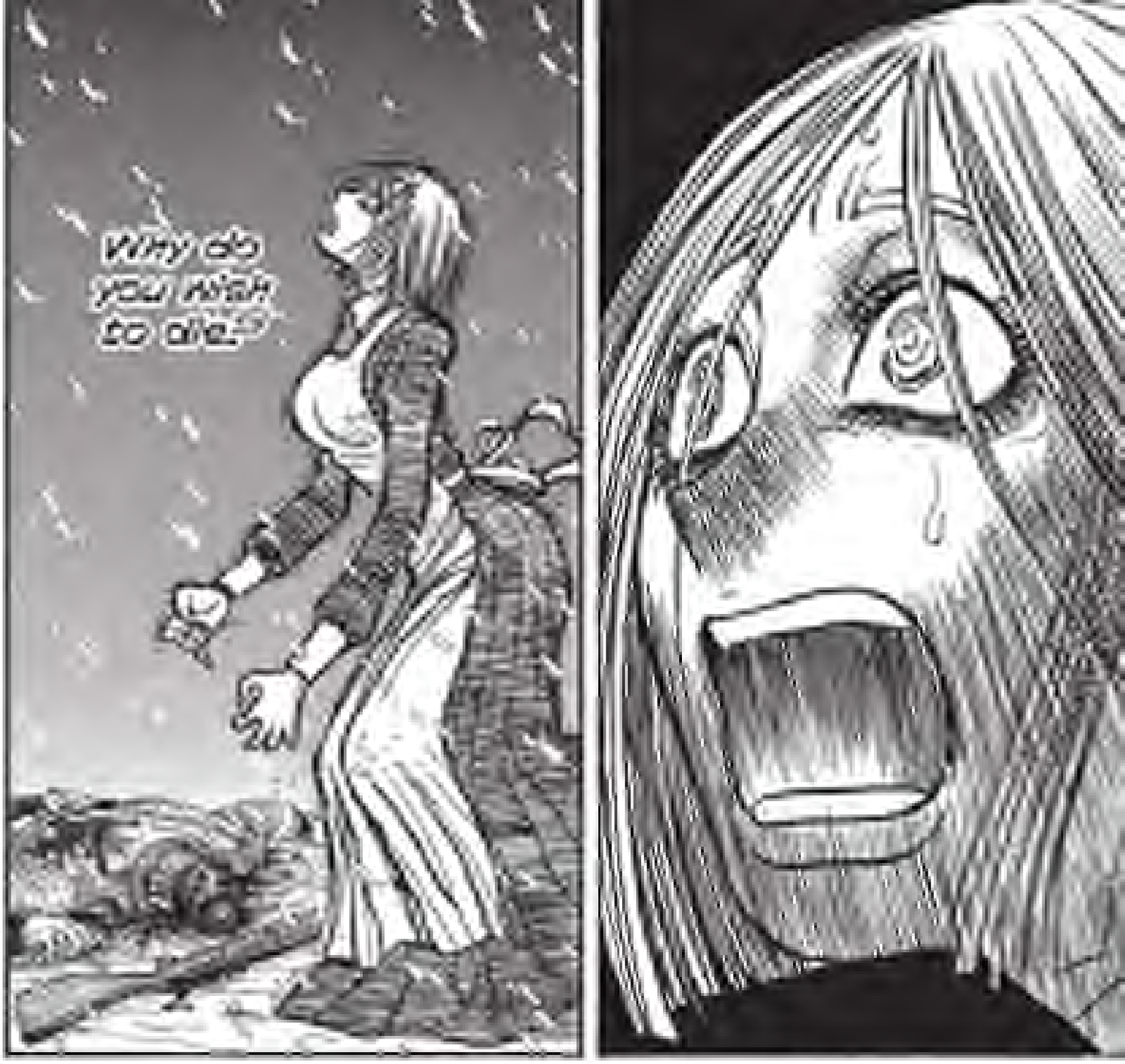
...HEAR ME, O'BON...
WOO
Y... YOU...
YOU HERE AIMING FOR A DOUBLE-STRIKE...
FWOOM

I...
...TRUSTED WHAT I AVARICED TO...
I WAS BETRAYED BY THIS WOMAN... BECAUSE I TRUSTED HER...

GREY !!
WOOO!
End of Chapter 27
HER... ESPECIALLY HER EYES...
UNDER-STAND? SHE... WAS A GOOD WOMAN

NO, YOU DON'T!
YOU DON'T!


final chapter
FOUR SOMETHINGS
GREEEY!!


WHY DO YOU WISH TO DIE?

THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME... I CAN'T... SEE A THING...
...YOU STILL... HAVEN'T... TAKEN MY LIFE...

You'll fall right back into oblivion, you know. And when that time comes, I'll be right there to take your life

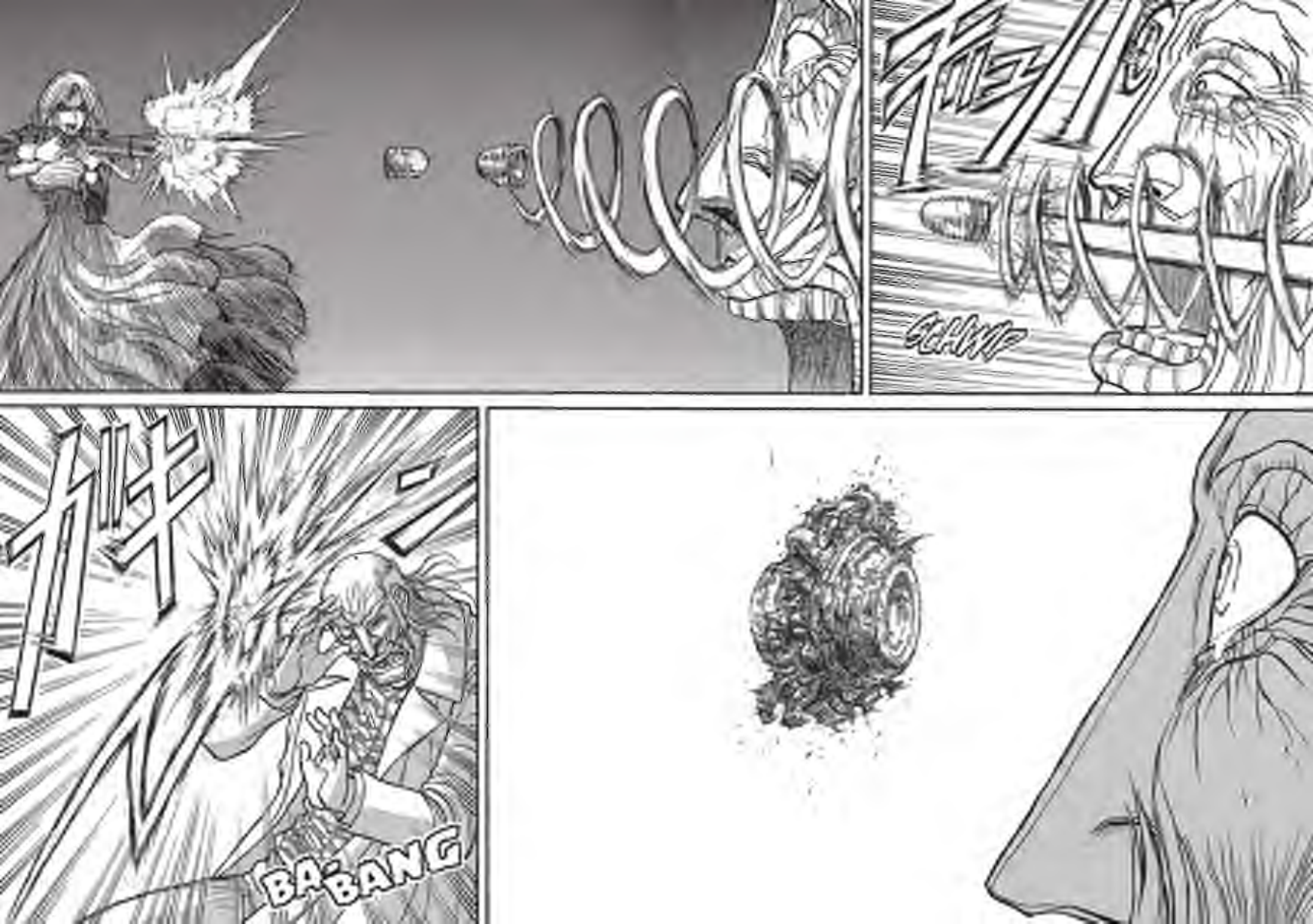
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO TAKE MY LIFE NOW ...!!
NOW!

MY D'MON FINALLY KILLED THAT GHOST AS INSTRUCTED !!
I DID IT!
AH HA HA HA HA!!

FOOH HA HA HA!
I COULDN'T KILL YOU, BUT I AT LEAST FOUND YOUR MOST PRECIOUS GUARDIAN ANGEL FROM YOU!
YOU DESERVE THIS, NIGHT-INGALE!

ONLY YOU...
...CAN-NOT BE FOR-GIVEN.
HA HA ...
HALL...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S WORTHLESS!
YOU COULDN'T... POSSIBLY KILL ME...
WHAT'S THIS? YOU'RE THE ONE... CUT THESE BEHIND THE WORTHLESS LIVES OF THOSE SOLDIERS!

...I WILL.
STOP! AREN'T YOU A CHRIS-TIAN?!
IF YOU KILL... YOU'LL GO TO HELL ...!!
IF I DO,
PER-HAPS... I CAN SEE GREY AGAIN ...
BOOM
HEEEEE!


BA-BANG

UH...
UH...
...NOT GETTING DIRTY.
YOU'RE...
BOB...?
DAD...
Vwsss

YOU'LL BE FINE...
WITH-OUT YOU...
I...
SPIRIT WARRIOR...
...NOT BEEING FIREY...
GREEN...
...WHAT'RE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT ? HM...
...JUST GOING TO SLEEP FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
SLEEP...
...IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH AND SO
GREEEY!!

くすん
HEH. THERE'S NOTHING IN MY HIGH REALITY WORTH CRYING OVER. IS THERE?
AND WILL
...THAT'S HOW IT HAD-PENED

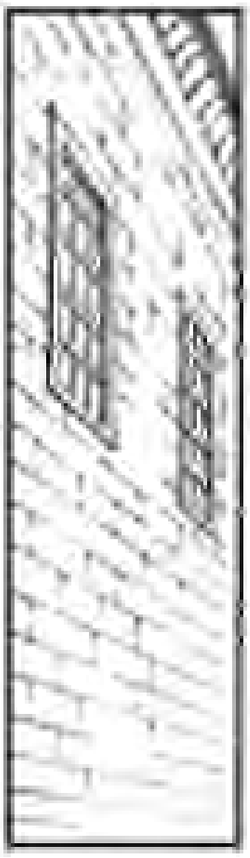
BUT WITH YOU BY HER SIDE SHE GREW STRONG... IT'S SO IRONIC. YET SO SAD.
SO SHE DESIRED DEATH AT YOUR HANDS.
SO, IT'S JUST... HER RIGHT-NOBLE COULD NOT LIVE WITH HER OWN WEAK-NESS.

I DIDN'T KNOW! I WAS JUST DUST DRIFTING IN THE AIR AFTER ALL!!
AT THE MOMENT, THERE'S NOT A SINGLE DEMON WHO DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT HER!

WHAT? YOU KNOW ABOUT HER?
BUT AFTER YOUR STORY ENDED, FLORENCE WENT ON TO ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH MORE...

IT TOOK QUITE A WHILE.
BUT I MADE IT JUST IN TIME
SO...YOU REGAINED YOUR POISE AFTER GATHERING "ESSENCE", CORRECT?
HOW GOOD OF YOU TO REMEMBER, MADAM CURATOR! THAT'S EXACTLY CORRECT.
WON'T YOU LEND ME THOSE?
...HEH HEH... WELL, SINCE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID WHEN WE FIRST MET?
JUST IN TIME FOR WHAT —?
OH, YES! YOU ASKED IF I WOULD GRANT YOU A REQUEST...
THIS IS...A MEMENTO?
AYE. I MADE GLEE TO BRING IT BACK WITH ME AS A MEMENTO. BUT MY SPIRITUAL BODY BECAME WISPY AND I ENDED UP DISCARDING IT IN THE THEATRE...
THE COLLIDED BULLETS?

OH, BUT I NEED SOMETHING BORROWED...
BY ALL MEANS. PLEASE TAKE IT... BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO BORROW IT SINCE IT WAS YOURS TO BEGIN WITH.
INDEED IT IS... TO ME. IT'S A MEMENTO OF THE ACTOR THAT I FAILED TO BECOME...
...UPON THE STAGE OF THIS WORLD...
I'M A GHOST. I COULD HAVE TAKEN THIS ANYTIME I WANTED. BUT I WENT THROUGH ALL OF THIS TODAY SO I COULD BORROW THEM FROM YOU...
HUH !?
THOUGH I IMAGINE THEY'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME...
IT'S FOR THE PERSON I'M GOING TO SEE AFTER THIS.
BUT WHY ...!?
IT'S BEEN 54 YEARS AFTER ALL...



ARE THEY NURSES? I WONDER IF THEY'RE ALL RIGHT JUST WATCHING FROM OUTSIDE.
A LOT OF PEOPLE IN FRONT OF THE MANSION AGAIN TODAY.

SHE MUST BE SO YEARS OLD
WELL, THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE THEY CAN DO. SHE CAN'T SPEAK ANYMORE.

WE'LL GET THE MISTRESS NICE AND CLEAN...

PARDON ME, LITTLE KITTEN.

I'M GOING TO WASH YOUR FACE NOW.
...WIPE AWAY THE SWEAT.

IT'S IN THE ABANDONED MISS. TAY CRUSHED THE SOTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NIGHTINGALE TRAINING SCHOOL AND HOME FOR NURSES.
THEY HAD A BEAUTIFUL EVENT AT CARNDYE HILL...
...YOU WOULD HAVE HATED SUCH A THING.
AGAIN. BUT I'M SURE...

SHUT UP, YOU FOOL!
LITTLE KITTENS, PLEASE WATCH OVER OUR WARRIORS!
I'M GOING TO WASH THE WATER...
...IN THIS FLOWER VASE.
I SUPPOSE THE TIME FOR ME TO GO TO HELL...
...AND IT'S BECAUSE I'VE REFUSED TO EVEN WASH...
I CAN HARDLY CONNECT MY THOUGHTS AS WELL...
I... CAN'T EVEN SEE.
"FAIR IS FOUL, AND FOUL IS FAIR."
BUT AFTER THEN, AT OTHER TIMES...
...IT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS
...WAS THE HELL OF CRIMEA...
THE HELL I KNOW...
IN MY PAST LIFE, THOSE TIMES JUST WHEN I SAVED BROTHERS...
...BUT IF I'M TO GO THERE THEN I'LL HAVE NO REGRETS.

WOW... SO YEARS' TIME'S MADE YOU FAT.
P.O.

YOU WERE ALWAYS GOING AROUND TELLING PEOPLE TO OBSERVE TEMPERANCE AND THAT GLUTTONY IS BAD. BUT LOOK AT HOW YOU TURNED OUT.

GLUTTONY

OHA?
HAVE YOU COME TO GUIDE ME TO HELL...?
I WORKED THEM LIKE SLAVES, AND PUT PRESSURE ON THEM... ALL IN THE NAME OF MEDICAL REFORM...
BECAUSE I CONTINUED TO DO SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS TO PEOPLE —
WHY WOULD YOU BE GOING TO HELL?!
IT WAS ALMOST AS IF TO KILLED THEM...
...AND EVEN AUNT MAI... I WORE THEM OUT...
SIDNEY HERBERT, DE SUTHERLAND...
I...I DESERVE TO GO TO HELL!
LIKE HALL SAID ON THAT DAY!

...THEY FOUGHT ALONGSIDE YOU.
BUT ALL OF THEM DID IT FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.
ON THAT BATTLEFIELD —

SOME-THING NEW.
SOME-THING BLUE.
SOME-THING BOR-ROWED.
AND A SIXPENCE IN YOUR SHOE.

...SOME-THING OLD.

THEY DESERVE OUR PRAISE.
AND I THINK YOU DESERVE PRAISE, TOO.

CHEL...
I MISSED YOU.

THE FOUR-SOME-THINGS.
...MOTHER GOOSE'S CHARM FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE.
REMEM-BER?

I'VE COME HERE ...
...TO BLESS YOU WITH THE FOUR SOME-THINGS.
THE PLACE YOU'RE GOING TO ISN'T HELL.

...ALL RIGHT.
...
BAUSAU I'M GIVING THEM TO YOU ANYWAY.
THERE'S NO REASON TO GIVE ME THE FOUR SOME-THINGS NOW...
B... BUT I'VE GIVEN UP ON HAPPINESS ...

OH MY...
OH...
AND FOR THAT YOU HAVE THE "NEW HEALTH SYSTEM AND NURSING PRACTICES" TO WHICH YOU DEDICATED YOUR LIFE TO CREATE.
FIRST, "SOME-THING NEW"...

I WAS BORN IN 1734... AN ANTIQUE VINTAGE OF ROUGHLY 180 YEARS...
THEN "HOME-THING" CAME...
HOW HOW HOW... IT'S RIGHT HERE. DO YOU SEE IT?
HUH?

NOW LET'S TRY "HOME-THING BLUE."
YOU'RE FINALLY SAILING.
ABOUT BLOODY TIME.
AHA! NOW...
HE HE HE...

HOME'S A HOME.

OH DO YOU?
MEANS I KNOW WHAT IT IS, GREY.

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS "SOMETHING BOTHERED..." WHAT COULD IT BE?

I KNEW YOU'D HAVE IT!
IT'S THIS BLUE DAY.

...WHAT IS THIS ...?
AH... IT'S UH... I... AND THEN YOU... UH...
IT'S THIS.
TASTE THE SMILE ...
...YOU SMOKED BEFORE, DIDN'T IT?
IT'S PROOF THAT I'VE FORGIVEN YOU. IT MEANS ...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THE KEEPER OF MY TRASH-BOX.
JUST LIVE YOUR LIFE.
EH?
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE IT.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS AS WELL.

HERE WE ARE ...
WELL THEN, LET'S BE ON OUR WAY.
HUH ...?
...AM I SO...
...?
HOPE

I STILL HAVE PLAYS TO SEE HERE.

YOU FOOL ...

...WAIT FOR YOU...
I WILL ...

...BLOODY
AWAM.
OHMM...

HUH
?
OH,
AND...
...WHEN HE
WAKES UP,
GIVE HIM
MY BEST.
I'VE
TALKED
FOR FAR
TOO
LONG.
I'LL BE
LEAVING
NOW.
THE
IMPRESSION
I'M TO
BE IS A
STICKLER
FOR
PUNCTUALITY
AND I CAN'T
KEEP HER
WAITING
BEFORE
HER TRIP.

AND AS
IT SO
HAPPENS,
THIS IS THE
SECOND
TIME I
BORROWED
HIS BODY.
AFTER THE
CHIMERA
WAR, FLO
HELPED
HIM GO TO
UNIVERSITY.
HE'S TOO
TIRED, THE
MAN HALL
WAS.

ISN'T
THIS
MR.
HALL
?
HE
THOUGHT
IT WOULD
BE A BIT
OF FUN TO
PRETEND
HE WAS
SOMEONE
ELSE.
AH AH...
NO, I JUST
BORROWED
A BODY TO
COME HERE
TONIGHT.

OH! THEN THIS IS...!
IT WAS AS IF I WERE WATCHING A MAGNIFICENT PLAY.
I HAD A WON-DERFUL TIME.
"IF WE SHADOWS HAVE OFFENDED —
HEH HEH... HEH HEH HEH.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT —

—A MIS-
SHAPED
MONSTER
SHALL
SHAAL-
GOLAZ

...THAT BUT THIS
AND
ALL IS
MERGED.
THAT YOU
HAVE AT
SUNDERED
HERE
WHILE
THESE
HEROES
DID
APPEAR."

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

カッ
コッ

CLAP
A Season Collision
of the Two Bullets

AH HA HA.
WHAT A WICKEDFUL LINE!
...
IF WE SHADOWS HAVE OFFENDED ...
...
YOU WISH TO ACCESS OUR SPECIAL ARCHIVES. DO YOU NOT?
MIKE LOFT, I PRESUME?

I DID APPEAR.
#11
...THINK BUT TAIL AND ALL IS MENDED.
THAT YOU HAVE BUT SLUMBER'D HERE.
WHILE THESE BEGIN
PLEASE COME IN...

BLACK MUSEUM
SHADOW

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Special thanks to
Nobuhiro Watsuki

Afterword

"We shall never know for certain the identity of this popular figure; though there are many anxious producers and actors who would dearly love him to pop up in the cast again, albeit unannounced."

That was an excerpt that concludes the page on the Man in Grey in *London: the Yokohama Style*.

I was surprised to read that, while the appearance of a ghost is usually something to be feared, here was a ghost whose arrival was eagerly anticipated.

What an interesting phenomenon!

The Man in Grey of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane... Though the Grey Man only appears here and there in the aforementioned book introducing English ghosts, he seems to be quite the celebrity.

I'm not sure how he came to know about it, but Tetsuchi-san, editor at *Morning* magazine and resident englophile, had brought me a photograph of the "celluloid bullets." In response, I said, "This is incredible... I guess something like that could happen, huh." Then Tetsuchi-san said, "Apparently, they were discovered in remnants of the Crimean War... You know, the one that Nightingale went to to perform nursing." "Nightingale...?" I replied.

And then, through the machinations of a manga artist and an editor, the Man in Grey, who only wanted to enjoy his plays, was pulled from his comfortable seat in the theatre and thrust onto the Crimean peninsula.

As for our other leading role, the Lady with the Lamp, Florence Nightingale, her story grew more and more amazing the more I researched and read. Anyone who knew her way of life – her devotion to people and medicine that poured tirelessly—would have their heart moved.

In truth, I wanted to follow everything that she had done, but I reluctantly had to forgo this idea because her "performance" with Grey was limited to only one part of her whole story.

And although this is coming at the end, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Professor of Literature Yasuo Sakuma at Aoyama Gakuin University for all his help with the highly valuable materials on drama and the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, as well as for his help with Basil from Shakespeare's plays. I would also like to express my gratitude to military

WOW!!
THE CURATOR, YOU MUST'VE DONE IT!!
I'VE DONE PLENTY OF RESEARCH FOR IT...
AND MONEY
I'M REALLY HAPPY ABOUT THIS, BUT...
AND I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL I'VE COMPLETED MY COLLECTION OF NOBUHIRO WATSUKI'S WORKS!!
THERE'S COMPLETELY TOO EMPLOYEE
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG ABOUT IT!!

Immortan. Mr. Kaneko Isono (I.I.M.) who oversaw everything from materials on the Crimean War and dueling, to how weapons were used.

Well, let me tell you, drawing a manga based on actual history requires a hell of a lot of research materials...

The group of people that the curator subpoenaed to the Black Museum at the end of this volume were all from Nobuhiro Watsuki-sensei's manga, *Rurouni Kenshin*. The museum even seems to have many items from Shueisha's manga on display. Both parties must share a taste for all things Gothic (or not).

Both manga are also set in the Victorian era, so it's only natural that items originating from there would be on display at the museum.

I imagine the curator will surely be hearing the tale of the manga and swearing "man-made human."

Well then, the Black Museum will be closing temporarily. However, the ever inquisitive Curator has a twinkle in her right eye that says there are plans to reopen after only a brief delay.

I hope to see you then. Amidst the dim lights and smell of dust.

- *Kazuhiro Fujita*

"An angel is the person who fights for the person who engenders, over the person who scatters a beautiful flower."

(*Kenshin Himura*)

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Since making his debut in 1989, Kazuhiro Fujita has become one of Japan's masters of the ghost story, creating the hit supernatural series *Kurosagi Corpse Delivery Service* and *Ushio and Tora*, which won the Shogakukan Manga Award and the coveted Seiun Award (the "Japanese Hugo Award"). He is currently working on *Soul Eater Must Be Destroyed* for *Weekly Shonen Sunday* in Japan.

Black Museum Dramatis Personæ: Florence Nightingale and William Howard Russell

By Zack Davisson

One of the wonders of reading *The Black Museum: The Ghost and the Lady* is knowing that all the characters are based on real people. A glance at the extensive bibliography of books used by Kazuhiro Fujita shows to what extent actual history forms the basis of the tale, including the enigmatic **Man in Grey.**

The true Man in Grey is the most famous ghost of London's oldest and most haunted theater, the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Multiple specters occupy the theater, such as the floating severed head of the clown Joseph Grimaldi, or pantomime dame Dan Leno, whose arrival is accompanied by the scent of lavender. Manifestations of the Man in Grey are exactly as described in *The Ghost and the Lady*—a man dressed like an 18th century gentleman circles the Upper Circle between the hours of ten and six, disappearing into a wall after completing his circuit. The Man in Grey is said to have particular tastes; his appearance heralds a hit production.

The legend of the Man in Grey has two origins. The first was a refurbishment of the theater in the 1840s. Opening that particular wall, workers found the skeleton of a man with a knife in its chest, killed and hidden in a cavity. Stories sprang up around this unknown corpse. The ghost himself did not appear until almost a hundred years later in 1939, when an entire audience witnessed his walk across the balcony. However, some of the more skeptical attribute the Man in Grey to a publicity stunt by theater advertising manager W.J. MacQueen Pope, who possibly hired an actor to play the role. These rumors are not enough to quell belief—sightings of the Man in Grey persist and are eagerly anticipated.

Grey's true love, Charlotte, is based on someone with more trustworthy credentials, Sarah Siddons (1755–1831). Born to a theatrical family, her father Roger Kemble forged his 12 children into the Kemble Family, who dominated the British stage. Sarah married actor William Siddons at 18, and found tremendous success on the stage performing Shakespeare. When she retired in 1812, the audience stood for an explosive

applause, ending the production until Sarah reappeared and delivered a farewell speech. A marble statue of Sarah still decorates Paddington Green in West End, London.

As mysterious as the Man in Grey, is his opponent, **Charles-Geneviève-Louis-Auguste-André-Timothée d'Éon de Beaumont** (1728–1810). Born to a poor, noble family, d'Éon excelled at school and fencing, rising in social circles and influence. Androgynous in appearance and a skilled mimic, in 1754, d'Éon was recruited into King Louis the XV's network of spies called Secret du Roi. Disguised as the lady Lea de Beaumont, d'Éon infiltrated the Russian court and served as a maid of honor to Empress Elizabeth. Returning to France, d'Éon was named a Captain of Dragoons and fought in the Seven Years' War. D'Éon drafted the peace treaty that formally ended the war, and was awarded the Order of Saint-Louis and the rank of chevalier. In 1763, d'Éon was named chargé d'affaires and plenipotentiary minister to Britain. Fortunes rose and fell along with the French Revolution. Exiled and bereft of support, d'Éon sold family possessions, competed in fencing tournaments in England for prizes, and eventually died in poverty at age 81.

One of the great mysteries of d'Éon was gender. Male? Female? Both? D'Éon claimed to have been born female, but raised male by her father due to inheritance laws. d'Éon lived for 49 years as a man, excepting work as a spy and in disguise. From 1777, d'Éon transitioned to female, living as a woman for the rest of her life. d'Éon presented quite the figure, winning fencing tournaments in petticoats with the Order of Saint-Louis pinned to her chest. d'Éon's gender was of such interest that a betting pool was started on the London Stock Exchange about her true sex. d'Éon refused to submit to any examination, saying it would dishonor her, regardless of the result. She was officially recognized as female by the French government. On her death, her body was examined and the doctors "found the male organs in every respect perfectly formed," but her body was also described as having "unusual roundness in the formation of the limbs. The throat was by no means masculine; breast remarkably full; arms, hands, and fingers those of a stout female; legs and feet corresponding with the arms." It is possible that d'Éon was intersex or transgender, but the true facts shall never be known. In 1928, the term *eonism* was coined by British essayist and physician Havelock Ellis in her honor to refer to transgender people, although the term is rarely used in

modern times.

(*Black Museum* is not the only manga to feature d'Eon. Kiriko Yumeji and To Ubukata created *Le Chevalier d'Eon*, published by Kodansha in Japan and Del Rey in the U.S. The title was also adapted into a 24-episode anime series).

D'Eon's patron **Dr. John Hall** (1795–1866) was every bit as nasty as his comic book counterpart. He joined the Army Medical Service in 1815, and spent the next 40 years on various campaigns in various foreign wars. He served at the Battle of Waterloo that saw the fall of Napoleon, and then in Jamaica, Ireland, Spain, and Bombay, until finally appointed Inspector-General of Hospitals at Scutari during the Crimean War. While he may not have commanded a ghostly assassin, Hall was a bitter opponent of Florence Nightingale, calling her a "petticoat impertinence" His letters pictured Nightingale as a power-crazed, publicity-seeking meddler, willing to climb over dead bodies to advance her own renown.

Hall wrote:

> *"Miss Nightingale shows an ambitious struggling after power inimical to the true interests of the medical department ... if not resisted, [Nightingale] will, with the influence she has at present at home, throw us completely into the shade in the future, as we are at present overlooked in all that is good and beneficial regarding our hospital arrangements, which are accredited utterly to her presiding genius by great part of the press and her own itinerant eulogistic orators."*

Dr. Hall's letters brought him into conflict with **Dr. John Sutherland** (1808–1891) and his Sanitary Commission. Dr. Sutherland and Nightingale became fast friends, and fought a war of letters with Dr. Hall that ended with Hall's disgrace. Still, while Hall was awarded the Order of Bath for his service, Sutherland's contributions went widely unrecognized. Dr. Sutherland remained good friends with Florence Nightingale all his life, and his last words on his death bed were to ask his wife to "Give [Florence] my love and my blessing".

Also on Nightingale's side was **Alexis Soyer** (1810–1858), one of the first of what we would recognize as a "celebrity chef." Soyer was a cook, inventor, social crusader, and creator of the portable Soyer Stove that remained standard military field equipment until 1982. He cooked for Queen Victoria's coronation breakfast, and crusaded to feed Ireland during the Great Potato Famine, instituting the idea of a public soup kitchen of the type still in use. He paid his own way to Crimea—accompanied by his secretary known to history only as "a gentleman of color," AKA **Mr. Black** of this tale—to assist the military and advise them on nutrition. The catering headquarters of the British Army's Royal Logistics Corps is to this day known as Soyer's House.

There are many more characters in *Black Museum*, each with their own story. **Field Marshal James Henry Somerset, Lord Raglan, Commander in Chief of the British Army** (1788–1855) did indeed visit Nightingale's sick bed to pay homage to her, identifying himself only as "a soldier." And while **Mother Francis Bridgeman's** nuns clashed with Nightingale, it was perhaps not as strongly as implied. Pick any name in *The Ghost and the Lady* and look it up. I guarantee you will find something worth knowing.

And of course, in a painting hanging in the National Portrait Gallery of Britain called *The Mission of Mercy: Florence Nightingale Receiving the Wounded at Scutari*, you can see next to Florence the image of her constant companion, helper, and friend, the 11-year old drummer boy attached to the 68th Light Infantry, **Robert Robinson**. After the war, Nightingale had Robinson sent to school to study agriculture, eventually finding employment on a large Scottish estate. They stayed friends their entire lives.

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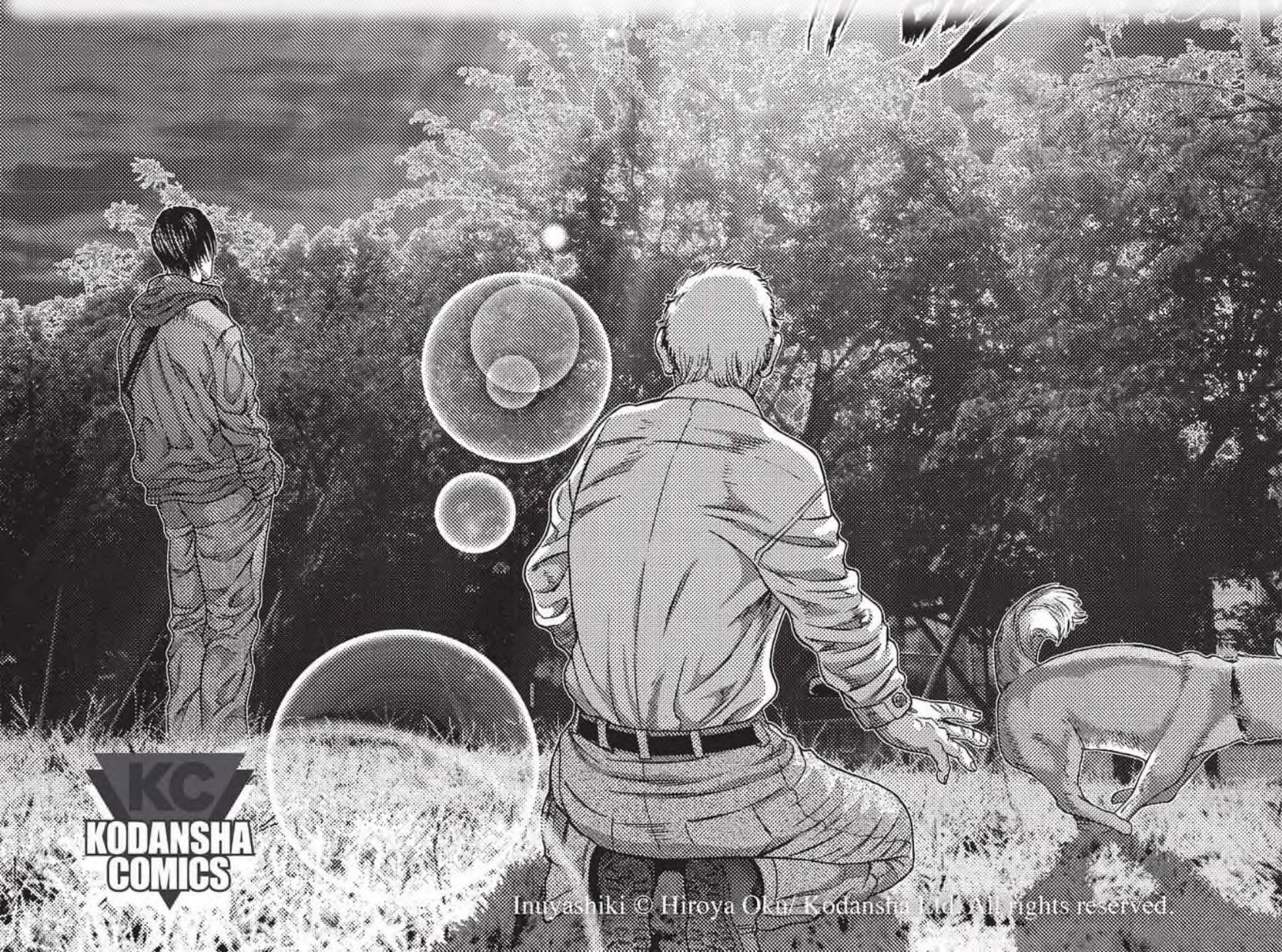

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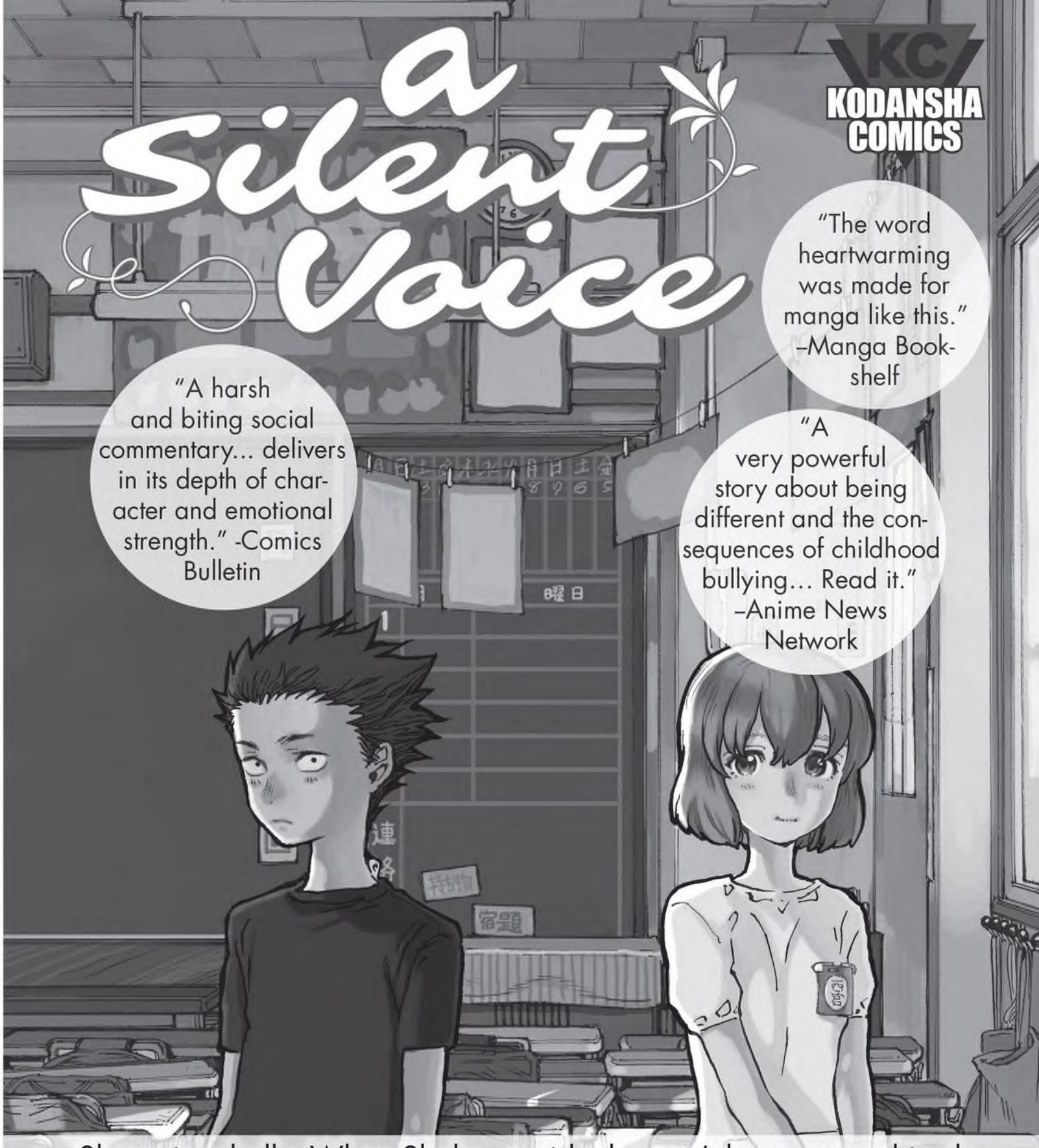
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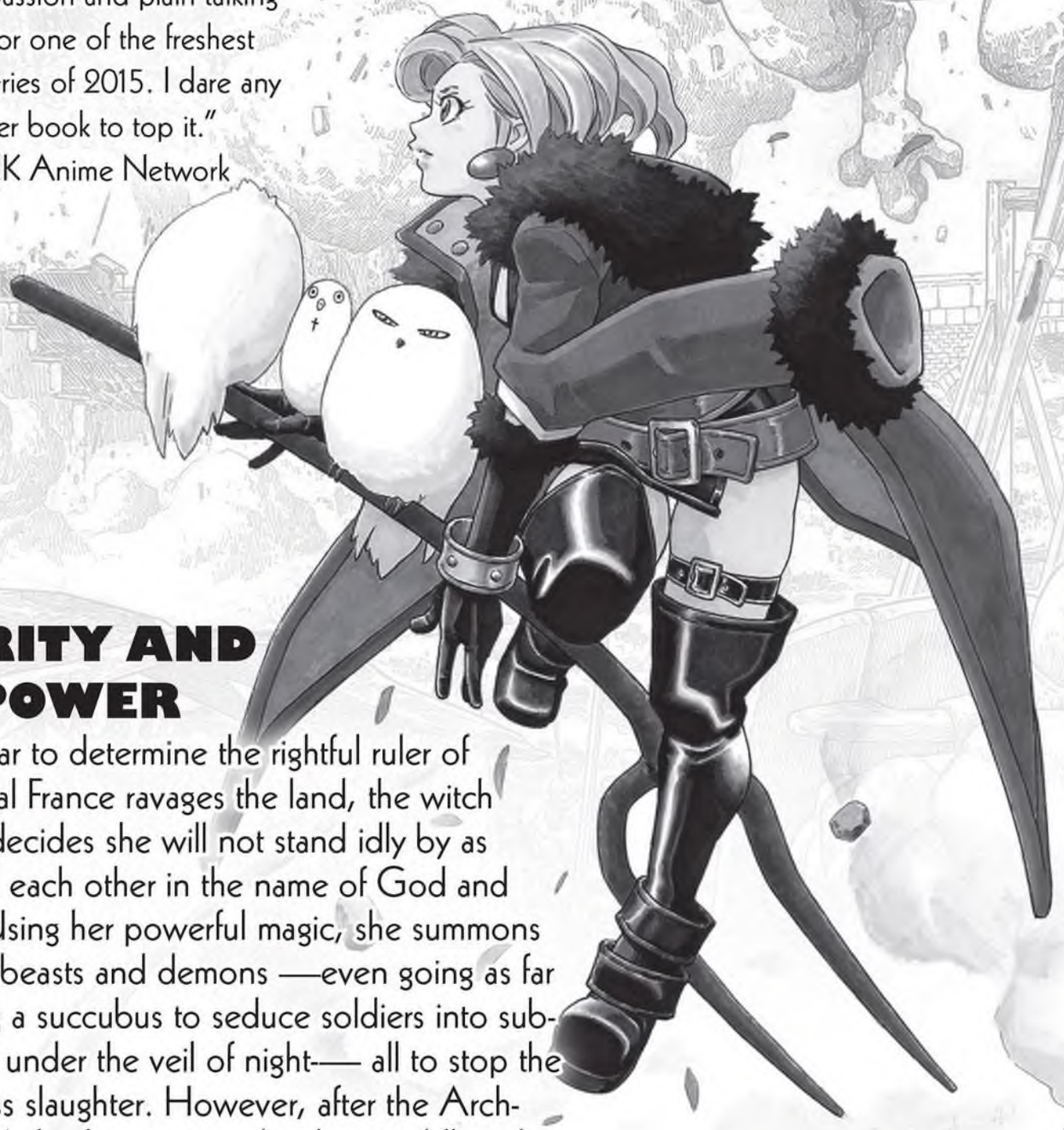

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The Ghost and The Lady 2

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